

The Florida College System – Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

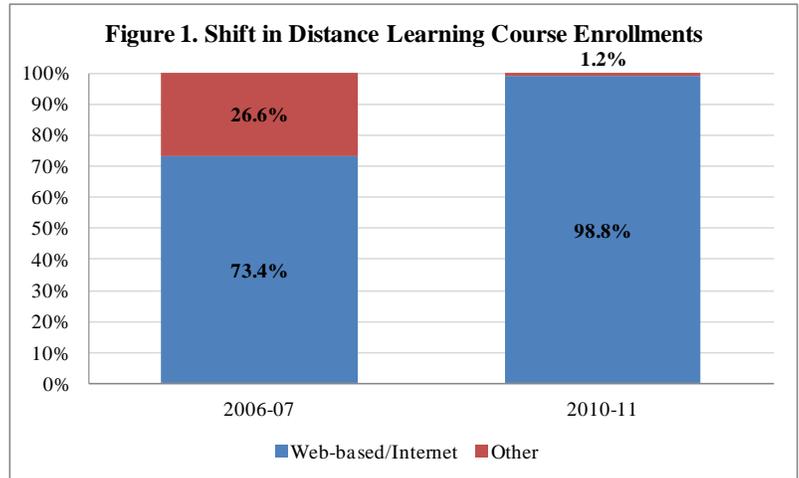
WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INTERNET COURSE ENROLLMENTS?

In 2010-11, the Florida College System (FCS) had over **612,344** enrollments (duplicated) in web-based/Internet distance learning (DL) courses. Table 1 shows the number of enrollments in Internet distance learning courses over the last five years. There has been **remarkable recent growth** in Internet distance learning enrollments which has increased 19.2 percent from last year and **more than doubled** since **2006-07** (up 128.8 percent).

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Enrollments	267,630	334,920	407,318	513,834	612,344
% Change	22.3%	25.1%	21.6%	26.2%	19.2%

Source: Community College Technical Center MIS

Figure 1 shows the **shift in distance learning course delivery methods** to the Internet from 2006-07 to 2010-11. “Other” course delivery types include hybrid (e.g., mixed online and classroom instruction), live broadcast, taped courses, video conference, materials (print/correspondence), and audio tapes. The change accelerated between 2009-10 and 2010-11 partially due to the reclassification of hybrid courses where 80 percent on-line content delivery became required to be considered distance learning. The [U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology](#) cites advancements in infrastructure (e.g., people, processes, learning resources, broadband connectivity, etc.) coupled with affordable Internet access as helping pave the way for increased participation in web-based distance education. In 2006-07, about three-quarters (73.4 percent) of all DL enrollments were in Internet courses. **Fast forward to 2011 and the proportion of distance learning instruction delivered via the Internet grew to 98.8 percent.**



At the beginning of the fall 2011-12 term, **more than one-half (55.5 percent) of the students in Internet distance learning were traditional aged students (18 to 24 years of age)** and 37.9 percent were ages 25-64. The remaining 6.6 percent were either very young or age 65 & above. Sixty-one percent of Internet distance learning students in the Florida College System attended **part-time**.

According to a 2011 study by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) participation in a distance learning course was most common among undergraduates attending **public 2-year colleges**. Additionally, the NCES study found that older undergraduates and those with a dependent, a spouse, or full-time employment participated in both distance education classes and degree programs relatively more often than their counterparts. NCES also noted that students with disabilities (e.g., mobile impairment, sensory impairment, or another long-lasting condition) rely on web-based courses to more easily access higher education opportunities.

The Florida College System [Research & Analytics](#) and [Finance & Information Systems](#) offices produce a variety of reports and analysis including the [FCS Fact Book](#). Educational opportunities are available very close to home. To locate the colleges nearest to you and enroll, please visit the [Florida College Directory](#).

For assistance, contact Florida College System Research & Analytics
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