

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
Volume 3, Number 3
July 2004

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New Fall Program: Alternative Teacher Certification (ATCP)

ATCP Online focuses on two certification areas: Early Childhood to Grade 4 Generalist and the Grades 4-8 Language Arts Composite. This program offered through the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) provides students with a unique opportunity to become a fully certified teacher in 12 to 18 months by taking their instructional courses fully online via the Internet. The program is designed to certify individuals who hold Bachelor's degrees in disciplines other than education. It is ideal for working adults wanting to change careers; those teaching on emergency credentials; those currently teaching without certification; or substitute teachers needing certification.

For more information, refer to the program information page. (<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1065,82,56.html>)

Visit to Scott and White

Jennifer Rees and Rob Robinson were recently invited to attend an education fair at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. The teaching hospital offers a generous tuition reimbursement program for its employees. Attendees stopped by the UT TeleCampus table and learned about our various online programs, including the expanded nursing education options.

Annual Report

The 2004 Annual Report is in! You'll find it fact-filled with lots of pertinent data. Watch for yours in late July/early August. Thanks to all of you for making this year so successful!

Fall Course Registration

On Wednesday June 23, TIS (TeleCampus Information System) registration opened for the Fall semester. Students have begun submitting registration requests, and advisors and registrars are working to process them. The TeleCampus is offering 122 courses this Fall. For registration information, contact Tasha Davis at <mailto:tdavis@utsystem.edu>.

Fall Faculty Training

The Fall TeleCampus Course Development and Management Training will be held in Austin on Thursday, September 30, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, October 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendance both days is required for faculty who have received TeleCampus course development funding and have not previously attended the training. Veteran faculty are always welcome, as are new faculty and course development staff. Join us to learn the latest on course development and management, as well as TeleCampus services and technology (including the Blackboard courseware platform). We are currently finalizing details - training locations, lodging, and agenda - and will send information to faculty who received course development grants during the 2003-2004 school year. For more information contact Lori McNabb at lmcnabb@utsystem.edu.

Videoconferences

Student and Faculty Services will host a videoconference in late July for registrars, and we will email specifics to registrars as soon as it becomes available. Advisor and financial aid officer videoconferences will not be held in preparation for the Fall semester - no significant changes have been made to the TIS (TeleCampus Information System) since the last meeting. However, a financial aid officer videoconference will be held prior to the beginning of Spring registration to discuss the functionality of the new TIS interface.

TRACK and TRACKPlus

Thirteen Texas districts piloted TRACKPlus -- the extended version of TRACK that includes online tutoring -- June 10-July 6. Each district had one high school and 25 students in the program. The tutoring was in English, including Writing, and Math; Math tutoring was available in Spanish also. Live tutoring was conducted on an electronic whiteboard; sessions ranged from 6 to 55 minutes, but most were under 30 minutes. Students also could email questions and essays and receive a reply within 48 hours; in most cases the reply was the next morning. All tutoring was conducted during summer school hours (8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).

For future planning, the districts now are completing an online survey regarding TRACKPlus; they also gave their feedback in a conference call July 6. The districts were quite favorable about TRACKPlus, especially for students who are reluctant to ask questions in class. Also, the teachers appreciated that the tutoring service gave step-by-step feedback to students and required that they formulate their own questions, rather than rely on teacher-formulated questions. One comment was that TRACKPlus helped the students learn how to learn.

A second pilot of TRACKPlus will be September 7-October 19, prior to the TAKS retakes. Nine Texas districts across the state have been invited to participate; the list is still being confirmed. Each district will have two high schools in the pilot. The tutoring hours have been extended to 9:00 p.m. so students can take advantage of it after school and in the evening.

A TRACK presentation will be made at the ESC Region 16 Technology Conference August 10 in Amarillo. Over 53,000 accounts have been established in TRACK.

TRACK Learning Content

Thirty new learning objects, a third of which were designed and developed by UTTC staff, were added to the TRACK learning materials in the last two months. All TAKS objectives and 99% of all TEKS sub-objectives are now covered by custom and third-party learning objects which are primarily interactive Flash simulations and Quicktime lectures synchronized with slides. Over the next three months, the few remaining sub-objectives will be developed, and all objects will be revised based on user and reviewer feedback.

Redesign Papers

Four white papers--Assessment, Group Assignments, Discussion Interaction, and Media Objects--were prepared by the Course Development team in conjunction with the in-progress MBA Redesign project. These papers focus on best practices as implemented in Blackboard with the aim of increasing course scalability. The papers are available to all UTTC faculty through Student and Faculty Services.

CEO

CEO (Career Enhancement Online) has officially launched with expanded catalog and credit card processing capability. The Fall 2004 cohort sections of the first two courses in the Paralegal Certificate program from UT San Antonio are being made available now for registration and online payment. More than twenty additional courses will be added to CEO during the fall.

Embanet Statistics

May

Phone Calls	88 (57.9%)
Emails	15 (9.9%)
Web Forms	50 (32.9%)

Average time to complete email request	4 minutes
Average time to complete phone request	6 minutes
Average time to complete web request	16 minutes

June

Phone Calls	171 (63.8%)
Emails	20 (7.5%)
Web Forms	76 (28.4%)

Average time to complete email request	5 minutes
Average time to complete phone request	11 minutes
Average time to complete web request	43 minutes

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