

*Upcoming:*

**Electronic Display of Information**

Seminar with Mary Bold, PH.D., CFLE  
Family Sciences Seminar Day  
Friday, August 5, 2005

Human Development Building  
TWU Denton Campus

For Information: [famsci@twu.edu](mailto:famsci@twu.edu)  
*free seminar*

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# Online Degree Programs

Benefits, Risks, & Concomitant Lessons

by Mary Bold, Ph.D., CFLE



## **A** Decision to go online

- 1 - Choice of the right program
- 2 - Choice of the right courses
- 3 - Schedule for phasing in and ramping up
- 4 - DL Guidelines and consistency/conformity
- 5 - Delivery modes and back-up plan
- 6 - Rarely documented: motivation
  - University's = market share, growth
  - Department's = mandated
  - Faculty's = challenge, superior results

CONCOMITANT

Classic error by administrator

## **G** Personnel

- 1 - Faculty roles, adjuncts
- 2 - Instructional designers
- 3 - Tech support
- 4 - Assistants

CONCOMITANT

"Unbundling"

## **H** Supports for faculty

- 1 - Training, conferences
- 2 - Time to learn, to experiment
- 3 - Sandboxes, Smurfville, observations
- 4 - On-the-job training ... co-teaching
- 5 - Tangible rewards and copyrights

CONCOMITANT

Relief from isolation, reputation hits

## **I** Supports for students

- 1 - Early course information, syllabus
- 2 - Realistic expectation of commitment of time
- 3 - Sense of community and support
- 4 - Opportunity to self-evaluate

CONCOMITANT

No amount of support will exceed need

## **B** Class size & work units

- 1 - Large versus small; with help or without
- 2 - Sections or groups for interaction
- 3 - Outstanding work highlighted
- 4 - Choice of assignments

CONCOMITANT

Opportunities for lurking  
Student's perception of class size

## **C** Assessment of students

- 1 - Low threat environment
  - Practice boards (w/ and w/o grades)
  - Non-credit practice quizzes
- 2 - High standards and ethical behavior
  - Detecting cheating and plagiarism
  - Philosophy versus Policy
- 3 - Online tests, proctored tests
  - Graded by LMS / instructor / grader
  - Window of availability
  - Mode of feedback
- 4 - Writing by students
  - Scholarly posts
  - Submitted papers
  - APA standards
  - Tracking progress
- 5 - Group work / projects
  - Advanced Group Mgmt

CONCOMITANT

Sort by interaction preference

## **D** Documentation of Learning

- 1 - Principles of Good Practice
- 2 - Institutional Effectiveness / SACS
- 3 - Graduate Program Review
- 4 - Comparability review
- 5 - Formative & summative evaluations
- 6 - Grade distributions
- 7 - Instructor's notes
- 8 - Bean-counting
- 9 - Backing up
  - Regular exports of gradebook
  - Occasional Course Statistics

CONCOMITANT

Immediate improvement occurs

## **E** Course design

- 1 - Temporal: by module, by month, by week
- 2 - Interaction: frequency & style
- 3 - Navigation: linear, nonlinear, structured, non...
- 4 - Universal design principles
- 5 - Andragogy principles

CONCOMITANT

warm-up week or activity  
homepages & emergency contact list  
in-course faculty lounge

## **F** Screen design

- 1 - Typography for the web-accustomed
- 2 - Section 508, accessibility, and ADA
- 3 - Typography for the range of users
- 4 - Suitability for printing

CONCOMITANT

No control over user's screen  
Safety nets ... Arial, 100% tables