

Online Learning Plan Summary

Saint Paul College was awarded Minnesota Online accreditation confirmation in August, 2006 after an on-site evaluation. The following strategies summarize the College's Online Learning Strategic Plan.

Expand online courses and programs:

- Identify customers of potential programs by exploring the market for online programs, including the competition.
- Determine demand for these courses from student perspective, employer perspective and market perspective.
- Examine how we can use our current unique programs to further expand courses and training to increase completion rates.
- Identify new programs and courses that will be offered online, and current courses that could benefit from alternate delivery methods.

Develop a systematic approach to utilize data for decision-making and continuous improvement:

- Develop and implement an online tool that allows students to provide periodic feedback on courses, their delivery and services provided (e.g., bookstore, IT, library, registration, tutoring, FA, advising, counseling).
- Develop and implement tools for measuring faculty satisfaction with the processes associated with the development and implementation of online course and programs.
- Formalize and implement a course design checklist for online courses (e.g., caters to different learning styles, learning assessment built in, faculty office hours listed).

Systematically apply assessment of student learning to the online environment:

- Identify methods used to assess students' learning in online courses.
- Document best practices (e.g., formative assessment/1 minute responses, self-assessment, portfolios).
- Incorporate WIDS Assessment Matrices into student learning.
- Develop tools and processes to ensure direct and indirect measures of student learning are used.

Provide and encourage professional development opportunities for teaching, learning, and services for the online environment:

- Initiate a college-wide professional development action plan that identifies and tackles high priority topics.
- Develop and implement an online program for new faculty to orient them to the college, and an online training program for faculty wishing to teach online.
- Develop and post a one-stop resource page with policies, procedures, professional development opportunities and resources associated with teaching online courses, as well as a faculty chat room.

Convenient



Accessible



Innovative

A learning college places learning first, and provides educational experiences for learners anywhere, anyplace, anytime.

O'Banion. A Learning Collge for the 21st Century. 1997

- ↳ Increase accessibility for students, faculty and community members to online systems and resources:
 - Determine faculty technology needs as they apply to the wireless network, hardware and software; prioritize upgrades to ensure high-end users have appropriate technology.
 - Set up a student life e-bulletin board or Web area that includes announcements, career information, and college activity information, contributed to by students, faculty, and community members.
 - Develop a Web community that facilitates collaboration among all stakeholders (could use an application such as Shareware).
- ↳ Develop and communicate the College's image regarding online offerings through appropriate media:
 - Explore additional avenues for marketing, including online ads, page buys, hit buys, etc.
 - Identify target markets, demographics, etc. and disseminate online course and program initiatives to appropriate markets.
- ↳ Enhance teaching and learning through the use of relevant innovative technology:
 - Expand the technology tools used to deliver Web enhanced, Web supplemented, and online courses.
 - Establish standards for the technologies being implemented.
 - Develop implementation plans for emerging technologies and associated budgets.
- ↳ Develop or evaluate policies and procedures associated with online teaching and learning to ensure relevance:
 - Review policies at other colleges as well as apply current College policy development and review procedures.
 - Identify needed policies with respect to online teaching and learning (e.g., intellectual property, copyright, authentication, and plagiarism).
 - Utilize staff input as well as committee process to review recommendations, make decisions and communicate policies/procedures to faculty and staff.
- ↳ Develop systemic processes to help ensure that students who choose to participate in online learning have the skills and resources needed to succeed:
 - Establish levels of technological literacy and competencies needed to succeed in online courses and eservices.
 - Establish tutorials, training and/or drop-in sessions, and a help desk for online learners.
- ↳ Analyze administrative, resource and staffing levels needed to grow/improve online learning and teaching:
 - Determine the leadership and staffing needed to reach the institutional targets to increase the number of online students.
 - Investigate the establishment of an income generating cost center with appropriate levels of staffing for online learning.



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