



Dallas International University

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary Distance Education Enhancement Project (DEEP) 2020-2025

Introduction: Dallas International University is an institution of higher education with a mission, “to provide education and research opportunities leading to degrees in applied linguistics, culture studies, and development of languages.” The QEP topic chosen for 2020-2025 by staff, faculty and students is, “Distance Education Enhancement Project (DEEP)” with the vision “to improve the way distance education courses are offered at DIU considering increased student interest and demand for alternative course delivery modality.” DIU sees DEEP as pivotal in enhancing students’ learning experiences with their professors and program content as they prepare for careers in a post-pandemic environment.

Outcomes: Data was obtained from stakeholders about current DE courses through a series of survey and interviews in addition to a review of University procedures and policies.

The guiding research questions for the baseline research were:

1. “How do current and past students perceive their experience(s) with DE at DIU?”
2. “What factors contribute to the effectiveness of instruction for students in DE courses?”
3. “What factors or aspects of DE courses need to be improved to enhance the learning experience for DE students?”

Student Success Outcomes: DIU established three Student Success Outcomes:

1. DE students will attain similar [statistically comparable] level of education as their onsite classmates,
2. DE students will complete research at similar [statistically comparable] level of achievement as their onsite classmates, and
3. DE students will engage with course instructors, classmates, and course material to a similar degree [statistically comparable] as onsite classmates.

Interventions: Ten interventions designed and will be implemented within the first two years of the project. These will improve both in-class and outside-of-class experiences for students. Such interventions include, technological upgrades, providing in-class technicians to address student technological needs, faculty and student orientation-training, accessibility to online resources, improved learning management systems including the platform itself as well as individual course page enhancements.

Conclusion: The world of learning through distance education has made higher-education more accessible and achievable. Such improvements have provided our students with exciting and varied ways to gain vital skills, knowledge, and attitudes to reach their goals, dreams and become life-long learners, all of which are of high importance to our university. With the outstanding participation of DIU students, faculty and staff, the University has been able to engage in this strategic and important shift towards more effective learning through distance education. We look forward to the continual journey of listening and collaborating with all of these vitally important participants.

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