

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, October 2012

Increasing Impact of Technology in Higher Ed

Progress on technology-delivered instruction and learning

In the past decade USHE institutions have made dramatic strides in the use of technology in the delivery and administration of higher education. The types of technology used in higher education range from online application and registration, to web-based course materials; and from hybrid classes that blend class time with online instruction, to courses and degrees offered completely online. Students of all backgrounds and ages are more digitally literate than ever and expect to use today's technologies in their education experiences.

The use of technology to change the nature of any kind of work requires the careful coordination of process, people, and technology. Technology is a means to an end that requires careful thought about how it is applied to achieve the greatest effects on learning outcomes.

"We have made tremendous strides in the use of technology, however, we must do even more to reach the 66% goal."

--Dave Buhler

Commissioner of Higher Education

USHE Institutions Offer 1,449 Online Courses

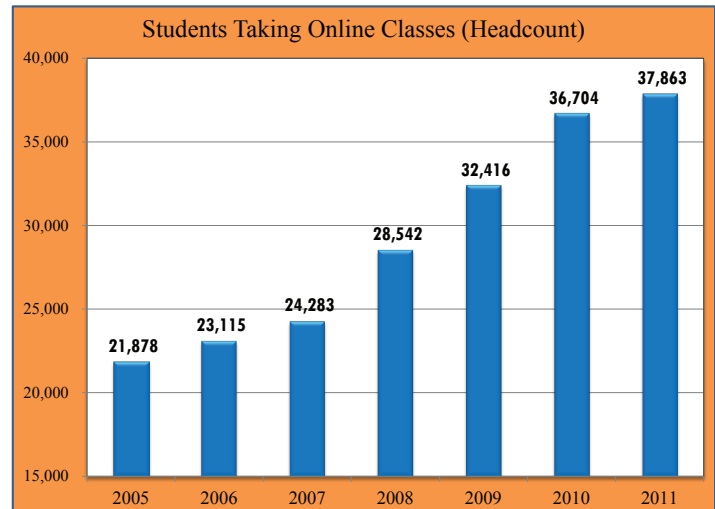
- From 2005 to 2011, the number of students enrolled in online courses has increased 42%, from 21,878 to 37,863 students;
- Of the 174,000 students enrolled in fall 2011, 22% enrolled in an online course and 61% participated in a class with technology-delivered instruction.

USHE Institutions Offer 49 Online Programs

- Associate in Applied Science (8)
- Associate of Science (9)
- Bachelor of Science (15)
- Master of Science/Education (12)
- Certificates (5)

Other System-Wide Technology Resources

- **Utah Education Network:** Partnership with K-12 to provide teacher resources including curriculum, video conferencing, and internet connectivity statewide.
- **Higher Education Technology Initiative:** Helps institutions leverage combined technology funds through increased purchasing power for IT purchases.
- **Utah Academic Library Consortium:** Consists of all public and private non-profit accredited institutions. Saves over \$600,000 annually to provide online access to over 15,000 academic journals and other resources through Pioneer, Utah's online library.



Institution-Specific Uses of Technology

- Student online application, registration, tuition, purchase course materials
- Web-based advising, audit & transfer tools
- Emergency messaging
- Approval/Signature systems
- Electronic accounting
- Student progress notification & tracking
- Assessment & accreditation

Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment

A K-16 Alliance Initiative, faculty from USHE and experts from the Utah State Office of Education are creating new technology-intensive (hybrid) concurrent enrollment courses. Starting this year, 12 college-level courses, listed below, are being piloted throughout the state. These classes include math, chemistry, fine arts, English, & CTE courses. Over the next three years, a complete set of General Education classes (20 TICE courses) will become available to high school students throughout Utah.

- ART 1010 (Fine Arts General Education)
- CHEM 1110 (Physical Science)
- Drafting (CTE Gateway)
- English 1010 (Composition)
- HUM 1010 (Humanities)
- MATH 1010 (Developmental Math)
- MATH 1030 (Quantitative Literacy)
- MATH 1050/1060 (Quantitative Literacy)
- Medical Terminology (CTE Gateway)
- MUSC 1010 (Fine Arts)
- POLS 1100 (American Institutions)

Dr. Charles A. Wight Named 12th President of Weber State University



The State Board of Regents have selected Dr. Charles A. Wight as the 12th President of Weber State University. Dr. Wight, who is currently Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Utah, will succeed Dr. F. Ann Millner. Millner is stepping down to return to the classroom, after 10 years as president and another two decades at WSU as an educator and administrator.

“Dr. Wight brings a level of professionalism and experience in higher education that will be a true asset to Weber State University and to the Utah System of Higher Education as a whole,” said Bonnie Jean Beesley, Chair of the Board of Regents. “I am confident that Dr. Wight is the right leader at the right time for Weber State University,” added Dave Buhler, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education.

In his current position, Dr. Wight supports graduate students throughout the institution and promotes academic quality through a rigorous system of program reviews. Dr. Wight came to the University of Utah in 1984 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, becoming a full professor in 1993. Since then he has held numerous positions at the U, including Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Vice President for Continuing Education.

Dr. Wight received the R.W. Parry Teaching Award in Chemistry in 2006 and was named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1994. He was also an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow from 1990-1994. Dr. Wight has filed three patent applications and published 150 peer-reviewed articles and two books. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BS in Chemistry from the University of Virginia and received a PhD in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, where he received the best dissertation award.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Weber State University in its next phase of development,” said President Wight. “Having spent the last 28 years as an educator and administrator at the University of Utah, I am excited to assume a position of leadership at Weber State University and help guide its mission of providing students with personalized learning experiences that will help them become responsible, educated members of their communities. I am committed to educational excellence, student engagement, service learning, and undergraduate research. I am eager to work collaboratively with WSU’s superb faculty, administration, trustees, and staff to keep the University moving along the positive trajectory it has been on during President Millner’s tenure.”

Weber State University is the state’s first comprehensive regional university that also retains a community college mission and one of eight institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education. (Utah Valley University and Dixie State College also have similar missions.) Founded in 1889, Weber State University is an exceptional teaching university providing associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business, education, health professions, liberal arts, technology and sciences to meet the needs of the region. Serving more than 26,000 students, drawn predominately from Utah but also including representatives from all 50 states and 49 foreign countries, WSU takes pride in its student-centered environment, meeting the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students.

