

Changes to Avenue Course Request Form

Background

The following provides an overview on the e-learning activity requested by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). In accordance with the 2010 Budget and the Speech from the Throne, as part of the Open Ontario Plan, the government announced the establishment of a new Ontario Online Institute (OOI). In Spring 2010, the MTCU carried out a survey on the e-learning activity and plans to gain knowledge on the type and scale of e-learning activity taking place across Ontario.

McMaster's response on e-learning activity was very limited and mostly estimated as no central data repository exists for gathering e-learning data. E-learning data are also required for the Multi-Year Accountability Agreement (MYAA) report which is compiled annually on the request of MTCU.

Given that the e-learning data are part of the McMaster's MYAA report, and in the long-term, e-learning will be used as indicators in the future reports, the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis has requested that Avenue to Learn be used as a medium to collect data on e-learning as an intermediate solution until the new ERP is in place.

Additional Definitions

E-Learning is a broad term, encompassing a wide variety of electronic technologies used for educational purposes, and a wide variety of educational formats and designs. For the purposes of this assessment, e-learning will refer to synchronous conferencing, hybrid learning, fully online learning and face-to-face.

Beginning on April 5, 2012 the following information will now be included on the course request form in order for instructors to select the delivery mode for the course. Definitions on e-learning course formats are provided below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Fully Online	Fully Online course uses the Internet and a Learning Management System with majority (at least 80%) of the course delivery is done online. For example, a fully online course may include occasional face-to-face meetings, a proctored exam, etc. with the remainder of the content delivered online.
<input type="checkbox"/> Synchronous Conferencing	Synchronous Conferencing course delivers majority (at least 80%) or all of instruction through audio and video conferencing with the use of the public telephone system (ISDN), dedicated wideband networks or the Internet.
<input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid	Hybrid course combines online study with face-to-face classroom instruction, with over half of the course delivery is done online.
<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face	Course meets face-to-face for at least half of the course instruction prescribed by the course type.

For further information on the e-learning reporting through MYAA's, please visit IRA's webpage on accountability: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/avpira/accountability.html>. For questions or concerns, email can be directed to irahelp@mcmaster.ca.