

3.13.4.a

Policy Compliance: Reaffirmation of Accreditation and Subsequent Reports

Applicable Policy Statement: An institution includes a review of its distance learning programs in the Compliance Certification.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

Note: Text for all linked documents below can be increased/decreased for ease of reading by pressing your keyboard's Ctrl key while rotating the mouse wheel.

Angelo State University complies with the Commission's policy on Reaffirmation of Accreditation and Subsequent Reports.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN THE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

A number of ASU programs, including the University Core Curriculum, offer portions of the program online in addition to traditional face-to-face delivery. For most programs, the online components account for less than 50 percent of the available instruction in the given program. In the following discipline areas, however, ASU offers programs that include online components that account for more than 50 percent of the instruction in the given program (see also Online Programs web page):

College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction:

- MA in Curriculum and Instruction
- MEd in Guidance and Counseling
- MEd in School Administration
- MEd in Student Development and Leadership in Higher Education

College of Health and Human Services, Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences:

- Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (the general BSN degree program is not a distance education program; the RN-BSN option, however, is predominately online, as indicated in the ASU Undergraduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 238)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Clinical Nurse Specialist
- MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner
- MSN, Nurse Educator

College of Business, Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice:

- Bachelor of Border Security
- Bachelor of Cultural Competence and Security Studies

- Bachelor of Cultural Fluency and Security Studies
- Master of Security Studies
- MS in Border Security
- MS in Criminal Justice

All courses and programs delivered online are evaluated in the same way as courses taught on campus (Core Requirement 2.5, Institutional effectiveness and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1, Institutional effectiveness: educational programs). Assessment processes include direct assessment of courses using embedded rubrics and indirect assessment of courses using the IDEA Center's Student Ratings of Instruction. All academic assessment processes and instruments used in the core curriculum and academic programs are applied consistently across sections of a course, regardless of delivery method. Results are separated by delivery method (online and traditional) for the purposes of comparing results and making needed improvements. See, for example, the Overall Results for Learning Goals with Weighted Averages in the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Assessment Report.

ASU uses the IDEA Center's Student Ratings of Instruction as one way of assessing faculty and courses. Meaningful differences between IDEA scores are assessed by the adjusted scores in the t-score category (IDEA Group Summary Report, p. 3). The t-score categories provide statistically meaningful groupings of scores as follows: 56–62 represent scores that are *higher* than the comparison group, while t-scores of 45–55 compare *similarly*. Mean (average) scores are provided for trending purposes. Each semester, ASU's Office of Institutional Research and Accountability requests reports from the IDEA Center to compare results for courses delivered online to those delivered in traditional classrooms. As indicated in the IDEA Semester Scores by Academic Department, scores for ASU onsite and ASU online courses are virtually the same—all adjusted scores for each item fall within the same t-score category.

ASU has addressed distance education in appropriate areas throughout this Compliance Certification Report. See, for example, the following:

- Distance Education in regard to adequacy of full-time faculty (Core Requirement 2.8, Faculty)
- Distance education in regard to library and other learning/information resources (Core Requirement 2.9, Learning resources and services)
- Distance education in regard to student support services (Core Requirement 2.10, Student support services)
- Distance education in regard to professional development of faculty (Comprehensive Standard 3.7.3, Faculty development)
- Distance education in regard to student complaints (Comprehensive Standard 3.13.3 and Federal Requirement 4.5, Student complaints)
- Distance education in regard to verification of student identity (Federal Requirement 4.8.1, Distance and correspondence education: verification of student identity)
- Distance education in regard to protection of student privacy (Federal Requirement 4.8.2, Distance and correspondence education: written procedure for protecting student privacy)