UC Online: Update and Status

For program information, go to ucal.us/uconline or email us at uconline@ucop.edu

UC ONLINE’S THREE-PART MISSION STATEMENT

- For UC students, UC Online will enhance choice, alleviate overcrowding in high-demand classes, and improve student time to degree.
- For UC, UC Online will drive new revenue into academic departments and build capacity for online delivery.
- For non-UC students, UC Online will broaden access to high-quality education designed by world-class faculty.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

The UC Online catalog for 2012-2013 includes 35 courses in various stages of development, with offerings from all 9 undergraduate campuses.

- Approximately 1,700 UC students have enrolled in UC Online courses in the program’s inaugural year. Beginning with first course offered in January, 2012, 14 distinct courses have been offered in subjects ranging from precalculus to political science to arts and dance.
- By the start of summer 2013, approximately 29 courses will have been offered to UC students.
- Once an online course has been taught successfully to UC students, some of these courses will be made available to qualified non-matriculated students. More information for non-matriculated students can be found at http://www.uconline.edu.
- By spring semester 2013, eight to ten courses will be expanded to include enrollment of non-UC students, with some 25 offered to non-UC students by the end of the school year.

Courses to be offered in 2012-2013 include:

- American Cybercultures
- Art, Science & Technology
- Calculus
- General Psychology
- Diversity, Disagreement & Democracy
- General Chemistry
- Spanish
- Intro Probability & Statistics for Business
- Intro to Rhetoric & Writing
- Terrorism & War

Online Perspective:

UC Online creates and delivers online courses for UC credit developed by UC faculty from all nine undergraduate campuses, with an emphasis on lower-division gateway and general education courses. A growing catalog is available to UC students on the campus of course origin and to non-matriculated students, with steps being taken to make courses available to UC students across campuses. UC Online courses are designed to take advantage of innovative delivery modes that emphasize scholarly interaction among students, between student and instructor, and between students and the content. Interaction includes synchronous and asynchronous discussion, instructor assistance and feedback on assignments.

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EVALUATION

The Educational Evaluation Center at UC Santa Barbara has conducted a course and program evaluation as part of the online pilot project. A preliminary mid-project report will be released in early October 2012 providing information about the six courses taught in the spring quarter/semester, with a final report due in July 2013. While the full preliminary report will be released shortly, key findings include:

- Students, faculty, and staff were generally positive about the potential for the online project despite some early technical and administrative problems that have since been fixed. End-user technology and bandwidth occasionally led to difficulty during synchronous sessions and proctored examinations.

- Over 70 percent of students reported they would recommend the course to other students and, if given the opportunity, would enroll in another online course at UC.

- 84 percent of students agreed that their courses represented a "high quality curriculum."

COMPARISON TO MOOCS

Massive open online courses (MOOCs) emphasize high-quality automated online courses with limited instructor contact and feedback on student work. While they are free and sometimes offer certificates of completion, they typically do not award college credit. UC Online courses, on the other hand, offer transferable UC credit and emphasize student-instructor, student-student, and student-content interaction and instructor-generated feedback and guidance. MOOCs will likely attract different types of learners and students with different educational objectives than those interested in credit from UC Online.

UC ONLINE GOALS FOR 2012-13

- Continue rollout of courses for UC and non-matriculated students and expand a curriculum of lower-division, high-enrollment gateway courses.

- Continue work with the Academic Senate on policy issues regarding online education.

- Investigate issues that would enable cross-campus enrollment of UC students in UC Online courses originating from another campus. These issues include developing a financial model to support instructional costs for students from another campus and refining the technical infrastructure to facilitate transfer of UC student information between campuses to monitor enrollment and financial aid eligibility.