

Online Education vs. Face to Face Classes

Which is more effective, online or face to face classes? “Online education is established, growing, and here to stay” (Mayadas par.1). There are many controversies about online education and face to face classes. Although each have their own positive aspects, many students chose online education rather than face to face classes. Online education is a great tool for learning to both students and teachers.

Online education allows more students to enroll in classes. Since it is not an actual classroom they do not have limited seats, where as in a classroom they only allow however many seats the classroom provides. With online classes there are no actual seats which allows for there to be more space for students to enroll in whatever class he or she wishes to take, rather than having to take classes they do not need just because the one they needed had no room and were put on a waiting list. This will end in more students being educated which will allow more capacity for learning. Although I agree with Dr. Hamid Shirvani when he states, “There are still limits to the size of the classes. The classes must still be small enough so that a professor can adequately interact with students and grade their assignments” (Shirvani par.3). The size of the class must be appropriate for the teachers because it does take a while to grade papers, whether be essays, projects, or tests. The teacher must have a reasonable amount of students so when they have to grade papers or tests they are able to finish within the time to post grades. Also teachers may be teaching more than that just that single class which gives them more to grade. To make

sure the students are not saving all the work till the end they should have periodic checks. This will help students stay on track. Although there are restrictions on online classes, it will end in more students being able to become educated because they will be able to provide more courses for students to enroll in.

Since there are no seats that have to be provided for online classes it also allows for the university to save money. It is also financially positive for the students. The Technology Steering Committee of CSU Stanislaus made the important point that, "By providing high quality online bachelor and graduate educational programs through the collective academic capacity of the largest university system in the nation, the CSU will be better able to address California's future labor force demands while also providing thousands more affordable educational opportunities to those seeking university degrees" (CSU Online Overview par.1). Online classes are cheaper than actual face to face classes. Therefore many students won't have to worry about paying extra to take face to face classes because of the more affordable cost for online education. Students also do not have to waste money on gas, especially those that commute from far away. College is expensive so taking online classes will lower the money they have to spend. For the university this will help save money because they won't have to worry about seating students or having to build more classrooms to have space for them. The money they save on this can be used on other educational things.

Not only does it allow for more students to enroll but online classes provide flexibility for both students and teachers as well. There are many students that work to help pay for school or may travel a long way because they cannot afford living in the dorms. In the Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks, Mayadas states that, "...working adults who wish to obtain a college credit and credentials but who cannot do so because of time restraints imposed by work,

family, and community responsibilities, or lack of proximity to a suitable educational institution”(Mayadas 51 par.1).Also if students are sick or disabled it is a lot easier for them to work from home or wherever they may be. If they travel somewhere for vacation or have an emergency they won't have to worry about missing class since they can access their classes anywhere as long as they have a computer. They will be able to attend class whenever the time is appropriate and available for them. Taking Dr. Hamid Shirvan's view on this situation I agree that, “This means that universities can teach students all over the world and establish a global influence” (Shirvan par.4). To further explain Dr. Hamid Shirvan also states how online classes allows for there to be guest- lectures, “This opportunity to collaborate allows them to supplement their courses with cutting edge advancements and highly specialized knowledge that previously were only available to students in prestigious research universities” (Shirvan par.5).With this, students will be able to learn from people who may not be able to come to lecture but know a lot about whatever subject it may be that students are focusing on.

Online education has many positive parts to it. It is not only helpful in ways to the students, but also for the teachers at the universities. Many students chose online over face to face classes. Online classes have increased and will probably continue to grow over the years. I believe that online education is in several ways better than face to face classes. Online classes help students with education finances and time which makes higher education somewhat easier for them.

Work Cited

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