



2013/14

Colorado Community College Online
Strategic Plan

Background of CCCOnline

Colorado Community Colleges Online (CCCOonline) is a virtual education delivery system that coordinates online learning opportunities for community colleges both within and outside of Colorado. Students can take individual courses or complete a certificate or an associate degree program through their home college. All classes are delivered via the Internet, thus providing students educational opportunities that are truly anytime, anywhere. CCCO maintains the academic, administrative and a portion of the student services associated with these courses.

CCCOonline is not a college in and of itself. Rather, it is an extension of and a service to each of the home colleges it serves. CCCOnline offers students another learning option for complementing their on-campus experience. By offering courses through CCCOnline, the home colleges are able to offer their students courses and programs that they may not be able to offer individually.

CCCOonline began as a consortium of the 13 Colorado community colleges offering students a virtual educational option and greater access to college and its opportunities. CCCOnline matriculates students from each of the colleges into its courses, thus increasing the likelihood that courses will not cancel due to low enrollment as well as establishing class enrollment at an optimum level for learning.

Students who live in rural areas or who need to balance busy work and personal lives benefit from CCCOnline's broad selection of general education and gateway courses that will apply to their degree or certification programs at their home colleges. Students' courses are transcribed by their home college allowing the students seamless application of grades, financial aid and advising.

CCCOonline develops the online courses delivered to students. They have adopted an innovative team approach using faculty subject experts, instructional designers, and technology experts, and have produced outstanding examples of online courses that serve as models for the industry. Along with course content development, CCCO staff work to investigate emerging instructional technologies and how they can be applied to effective online learning. Courses developed

by CCCOnline have received numerous national merit awards.

CCCO has been recognized for its quality and innovation. The areas most often mentioned were:

- Development of online course templates and redesign of courses for online delivery
- Faculty development — training, sharing of best practices for online instruction
- Incubator of technology — advanced research into technology and pedagogy using technology

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CCCOonline has experienced dramatic growth and change since its creation in 1998. Student enrollment reached 50,000 annually in 2012.

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- Synergy – Staff at CCCOnline are excited about technology and education and work together to develop new models of learning
- Business Model – CCCOnline has been nationally recognized by SHEEO, WCET, and the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT, Dr. Carol Twigg) as having a successful business model for consortial online course delivery.

CCCOonline has experienced dramatic growth and change since its creation in 1998. Student enrollment reached 50,000 annually in 2012. Over 230 courses were offered in a variety of disciplines (please see our website at www.cconline.org for course and program listings). Students from 14 community colleges participated in these courses and earned 172,000 credit hours in academic year 2013.





Accessibility

Where are we now?

Online programs, although no longer in their infancy, are relatively new in the higher education community. Financial and technological influences are driving more students to pursue online education. Today's students are demanding flexibility in their educational opportunities and are more comfortable learning online; many even prefer it. Early reservations from faculty about the quality of online instruction have diminished in recent years. Faculty also realize the importance of reaching today's students where the students "live" (in virtual worlds), and are developing new skills to teach effectively in the online world.

Online education has grown dramatically in recent years. The study "Going the Distance: Online Education in the United States, 2011" reports that more than 6.1 million students took at least one online class during fall 2010—a 10.1% increase over the year before. Online programs have become a fundamental, strategic part of higher education. The growth of online education far exceeds the growth of higher education overall. Total enrollment in higher education increased by nearly 120,000 students during fall 2010, a 0.6% increase over the year before; and, 31% of all students participated in an online class during the semester—up from 9.6 percent in 2002. Online education has become an integral part of many colleges and universities, according to the study, with 65.5% of all chief academic officers reporting in 2011 that "online education is critical to the long-term strategy" of an institution.

10x The rate of growth for online enrollments is ten times the rate of growth for all higher education.

77% Seventy-seven percent of academic leaders rate the learning outcomes in online education as the same or superior to those in face-to-face classes.

6.7m 6.7 million students have taken at least one online course, up 570,000 students from the prior year, despite higher education enrollment declines in 2012.

69.1% The proportion of chief academic leaders who say online learning is critical to their long-term strategy is at a new high of 69.1 percent.

- 70 percent say online learning is critical to their long-term strategy, compared to less than 50 percent 10 years ago
- 77 percent indicated online instruction is the same or superior to face-to-face instruction, compared to only 57 percent 10 years ago
- More than 7 in 10 public and for-profit colleges are now offering full academic programs online, showing significant growth over the past 10 years
- Nearly half of private non-profit colleges are offering fully online programs, about double the number that were doing so in 2002



Where? do we want to be

Our Vision:

Providing every student with the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Our Mission:

Preparing students for life through academic quality and instructional innovation in an online learning environment.

Our Core Values:

- Academic Quality
- Instructional Innovation
- Accessibility
- Service
- Integrity

Our goals

- Student Access Goal: All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs
- Student Success Goal: Colorado students shall have the opportunity to succeed through high quality, cutting-edge instruction and educational services
- Operational Excellence Goal: The financial stability of the system's institutions shall be ensured.



Innovation

Student Access Goal

All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs.

Provide access to students from all Colorado community colleges through expanded online course offerings.

Measure
Enrollment in CCCOnline Courses

Target

Increase enrollment in CCCOnline courses by 2% each term over previous year



Integrity

Student Success Goal

Colorado students shall have the opportunity to succeed through high quality, cutting-edge instruction and educational services.

Content

Dynamic/Appropriate

Measure

Student Survey response

Design

Innovative/Engaging

Measure

QM Rubric, Student Survey, Student Completion

Delivery

Instructor presence/engagement

Measure

Presence, engagement, student outcomes

Retention

Retain and reward highly performing instructors.

Measure

Assessment of student learning

Improvement

Continue to improve the delivery and effectiveness of student support services.

Measure

Student completion rates.

Target

Annually increase retention rates from previous year.

Operational Excellence Goal

The fiscal and operational stability of the institution shall be ensured.

Provide innovative technology at low cost. Advocate for low student fees in the areas of digital content and course materials. Be a good financial steward of public funds.

Measure
Actual v. Budget;
Student Fees

Target
Meet budget; maintain student fee levels.

Service



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**“Education is the
most powerful
weapon which
you can use
to change
the world.”**

Nelson Mandela

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www.cconline.org