UH Online

The University of Hawaii System has a wide variety of programs available at a distance, using multiple technologies. Currently, the majority of courses are taken by students who take online courses based on preference or scheduling requirements versus need. Therefore, the goal of the new University of Hawaii Online program is the creation of online pathways designed specifically for the distant learner, who does not have the ability to attend our campus-based programs. This will not preclude the ongoing development and offering of the traditional 15/16 week semester courses for our traditional campus based student who wish to take on-line or distance delivered courses to accommodate their schedules and learning preferences.

UH Online will be structured for degree pathways which optimizes the schedule for student degree completion, ensuring that high quality courses are offered at the right time, and optimized for transfer between the associate to baccalaureate degrees. Students will also have a student support staff who understands the needs of the distant learner, providing just in time guidance and answers to questions as they arise during the student’s academic journey (concierge student support).

Data shows that the traditional 15/16 week semester length is not optimal for working adults, therefore an accelerated option of high demand areas allowing students to complete one course at a time in a 5-week week term will be created. These courses will optimize the use of technology and scheduling to maximize student success and contain costs. Instructional developers will be designated and dedicated to assisting faculty in developing high quality online courses and course materials. Open Educational Resource (OER) will be considered where possible in order to help contain costs for our students.

Programs

Associate Degrees

One of the first steps to be taken in deploying the strategic use of distance education is the coordination of a fully distance delivered AA degree leveraging courses from all the UH campuses. Students will be able to begin and complete their associates degree at a distance. The initial programs available will include the AA in Liberal Arts and Hawaiian Studies, and the AS in Natural Sciences. Certain embedded certificates latticed into the curriculum where appropriate may also be provided. By integrating lower division courses required for degrees at our 4-year institutions will ensure smooth transitions. This will also enable more on-campus students to be able to complete courses not available locally so they can transfer efficiently to our 4 year campuses.

Baccalaureate Degree/ Four-year completion:

Improved program alignment is essential for the AA graduates to continue on to a 4-year degree, so as part of this initiative, 10 of the most popular transfer
pathways will be reviewed and coursework will be aligned for models like the 2+2. Students wishing to earn a baccalaureate degree will have a STAR GPS pathway which starts with 100 & 200 level courses at the community colleges and 300 & 400 level courses at the 4-year institution. The expectation is that all general education courses will be completed at the community college.

**Degree completion:**
Another segment of this project will be targeted for degree completion; for students who have left the UH system within 15-30 credits of graduation without a degree. Data analysis will hopefully provide an understanding of courses needed by students who did not complete their AA or BA degree. These courses will be developed for distance delivery and student outreach will be conducted to provide these students an opportunity to complete their degrees. CC transfer data will also be mined to understand why they are paying more to attend another college other than a UH university.

**Workforce focus:**
Currently, the University is engaged in a Sector Partnership Convening process. Starting with CEO-led meetings with banking and recently engaging the state’s CIO’s, the university will soon engage the Healthcare and Finance sectors to assess industry needs, industry satisfaction with UH graduates, changes forthcoming in particular industries, talent pipeline concerns, and more. Some new online programs have already been proposed to address the needs expressed by sector leaders during this process and UH work will begin offer these programs online to meet the needs of our workforce. (i.e. retraining of bank tellers). Stackable credentials (certificates to AA/AS to BA/BS). These can include professional programs.

**Faculty Support**
For the programs and courses that are identified for UH Online, UH faculty would have access to professional development and innovation funds to develop and/or improve online courses. Faculty will work with instructional designers to ensure quality in these redesigned courses. Quality control for the programs will be a high priority using tools such as the nationally recognized Quality Matters assessment structure and data analytics to identify areas for improvement.

Program and course development will include pedagogical exploration of competency based education, prior learning assessment, badging and adaptive learning tools. In all cases, open educational resources (OER) will be used where possible to help contain textbook costs for students.
Staffing to support UH Online
Responsibility for supporting UH Online will be spread across ITS, the UHCC System Office, Outreach College for UHM program coordination, and our 10 campuses.

Information Technology Services office will provide systemwide leadership and coordination throughout the campuses. These will include: coordination of 2+2 pathways for undergraduate programs, development and support of technical standards and infrastructure, coordination of course standards and structures, maintaining the comprehensive schedule of online programs, coordination of comprehensive student support structures, creation and support of UH Online website and related services, coordination of marketing efforts, and 24x7 technical support. These activities will be achieved from combining and realigning current ITS resources and 6 new positions funded by the legislature.

UHCC System Office will provide leadership and coordination among the community college campuses in the development and delivery of associates and certificate programs. The 4 positions funded by the legislature will be used in the following manner: program director responsible for program management and coordination in cooperation with the CCs and the system, CTE staff to identify market needs and assist in the development of online programs and certificates, support specialist to insure consistent student support across programs, and an instructional designer (housed at ITS) to support ongoing quality course development for UHCC courses.

Campuses will be responsible for delivery of programs, including curriculum design, academic advising, student services support (admissions, FA, Starfish, etc.), and student progress review. Outreach College will coordinate and support UHM programs.