Pathways to Progress: Current and Future Trends of Blended Learning and Public Health Education

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What we will cover

- i. Basics of blended learning
 ii. Blended learning in public health education
- iii. Our study of public health educators in higher education
- iv. Wrap-up



Part I: Basics of Blended Learning

Blended learning refers to events that combine aspects of online and face-to-face instruction" (Rooney, 2003, p. 26; Ward & LaBranche, 2003, p. 22)

Historical Emergence of Fully Online and Blended (Graham, 2006)





The Sloan Consortium (2003). Sizing the Opportunity: The Quality and Extent of Online Education in the U.S., 2002 and 2003 http://www.sloan-c.org/resources/sizing_opportunity.pdf

	Proportion of content delivered online	Type of Course	Typical Description
	о%.	Traditional	Course with no online technology used - content is delivered in writing or orally.
	1 to 29%	Web facilitated	Course which uses web-based technology to facilitate what is essentially a face-to-face course. Might use Blackboard or WebCT to post the syllabus and assignments, for example.
	30 to 79%	Blended/Hybrid	Course that is a blend of the online and face-to-face course. Substantial proportion of the content is delivered online, typically uses online discussions, typically has some face-to-face meetings
	80+%	Online	A course where the vast bulk of the content is delivered online. Typically has no face-to-face meetings.

Models of Blending



Blending occurs at the following four levels:

Activity Level

Course Level

Program Level

Institutional Level

Instructor stakeholders

Administrator stakeholders

Fully Online and Blended Learning Advantages

- 1. Increased Learning
- 2. More effective pedagogy and interaction
- 3. Course access at one's convenience and flexible completion
- 4. Reduction in physical class or space needs, commuting, parking
- 5. Increased opportunities for human interaction, communication, & contact among students
- 6. Introverts participate more



Part II: Blended learning in public health education

Current examples



Blended learning Ex 1: Healthrelated news



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Blended learning Ex 2: Online Public Health Surveys



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Blended Learning Ex 3: Accredited Distance Learning Courses and Programs



Blended Learning Ex 4: Webcasts, podcasts, and videostreams



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Blended Learning Ex 5: Online open education Resources

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Blended Learning Ex 6: OpenCourseWare Public Health Examples



Blended Learning Ex 7: Open access library resources



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Blended learning Ex 8: E-books and other virtual documents



Blended Learning Ex 9: Healthrelated simulations



Blended learning Ex 10: Educational simulations and role-play





U.N. Food Force, called the first humanitarian game, simulates problems of getting supplies to wartime refugees. Terrorist Bus Bombing is a virtualreality tool to help psychotherapists treat survivors of actual terrorist attacks.

Blended Learning Ex 11: Exploring virtual worlds (ex. Second Life)



Blended Learning Ex 12: Procedure Games



Blended Learning Ex 13: Public health portals for supplemental educational or training activities

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Part III: A Study of Public Health Educators

The purpose of this study was to examine public health educators' perceptions about current and future trends in blended learning.



Research online learning in public health education

- Online learning supports the exchange of communication between students and faculty (according to J. McKimm, C. Jollie, and P. Cantillon, 2003).
- Online learners retained twice as much knowledge as classroom learners (according to study by C. M. Schart and J. Garrison, 2002).

RNs using a web-based course found the experience meaningful and more convenient (according to study by L. Atack and J. Rankin, 2002).

Method

This study was conducted via an online survey service, SurveyShare.

A nationwide random sample of Public Health educators was surveyed.



Instrument

- An online questionnaire was developed consisting of three categories:
 - 1. Demographic information
 - 2. Current status of online learning at respondents' organizations
 - 3. Predictions about online teaching and learning in public health education

Data Collection and Analysis

Invitation was sent by e-mail to the sample of public health educators.

51 individuals completed the confidential survey.

Descriptive data analysis was conducted using the data analysis tool provided on the online site.

Demographics

Nationwide survey

Gender

- 51% were female
- 49% were male
- Experience of integrating technology tools
 - 24% had 3-5 years
 - 37% had 6-10 years
 - 27% had more than 10 years
- Required training for online courses
 - 47% yes
 - **5**3% no

Department offers fully online courses

- 82% yes
- 18% no

Experience with Technology

How much experience do you have in teaching blended learning courses?



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Organization teaching online?

Does your department or program currently offer any fully online course?



Unique Partnerships?

Is your department or program entrepreneurial in forming partnerships or consortia with other organizations to offer new courses degrees programs or credentials?



Is instructor training needed?

Is training required of instructors who teach fully online courses in your organization college or university?



How will Advances in Technology Influence on Public Health and Health Education



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Roadblocks to Online Learning Expansion or Implementation





Future Growth Areas for Blended and Fully Online Learning in Public Health



Envision the Direction of Learning

Current status of online instruction in public health education

Next generation of the online environment
 Technological and pedagogical advantages

Instructional approaches to be More Widely Used in Public Health Education over next 10 years



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Which one of the following technologies will most greatly impact the delivery of online learning in your department or program during next 5 years?



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Projected Course Quality Trends of Online Learning Compared to Traditional Instruction



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Projected Student Outcomes Trends of Online Learning Compared to Traditional Instruction







Predicted Success Factors



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Activities, Tools, and Resources Influencing Course Web Sites in the Future



Changes in Online Learning Costs by Year 2017



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Pedagogical Improvements in Public Health Education Over Next 10 Years Due to Online Learning



Have you taught as a freelance online instructor for another organization or institution in the past (either for blended or fully online courses)?



Do you anticipate teaching as a freelance online instructor for another organization or institution by the end of the decade (either for blended or fully online courses)?



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Implications

Blended learning will grow more than fully online. 1. 2. Online learning resources benefit public health. Online learning develops student collab/eval skills. 3. Improving online Irng requires address pedagogy **4**. a. Collaboration; PBL; Case learning 5. Our data indicates necessary training support: b. Workshops; Courses; Degree programs 6. Technology interests and use is growing: c. Wireless technologies; Simulations

Limitations of the Research
Only university faculty were surveyed

Students were not surveyed

Small sample size



Recommendations for further Research

Follow up studies should investigate:
 Types of blended learning

- Success of blended learning
- Instructor training



References

- L. Atack and J. Rankin. A descriptive study of registered nurses' experiences with web-based learning. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 40(4), 457-465, July 2002.
- J. McKimm, C. Jollie, and P. Cantillon. ABC of Learning and Teaching Web Based Learning. British Medical Journal, 326, 870-873, April 2003.

C. M. Schart and J. Garrison. Distance education or classroom instruction for continuing education: who retains more knowledge? *Journal of Medicine Library Association, 90(4), 455-457*, October 2002.





Questions???



The Handbook of Blended Learning Global Perspectives Local Designs

> Curtis J. Bonk Charles R. Graham

Blended learning is one of the most talked about trends among training professionals today. Spotlighting the best work of the leaders in the field, this book is the most comprehensive discussion of the topic ever to be published.

Available November 2005

The Handbook of Blanded Learning is the first book to provide a forum for issues surrounding the design and implementation of blended learning environments. The book explores the successes and failures, the models and research, the latest ideas and examples that are impacting the design of blended learning environments. The expert panel of contributors will increase awareness of trends and critical issues that readers must consider before launching a blended learning eroiect. Sample HOBLe chapters at: http://www.publicationshare.com/

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