

Distance Education Policies



Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

*Universities and Health-Related Institutions
Summer Seminar
July 10, 2017*

Distance Education

- The formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50 percent) of instruction.

Distance Education Statute & Rules

Texas Education Code (TEC) 61.0512 (g)

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. P

- Approval of Distance Education Courses and Programs for Public Institutions
- Sections 4.255 through 4.264

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. Q

- Approval of Off-Campus and Self-Supporting Courses and Programs for Public Institutions
- Sections 4.270 through 4.279

Distance Education Modalities

- Electronic-to-Individual (Online)
 - Hybrid/Blended (51-85%)
 - Fully Online (86-100%)
 - 100% Online
- Off-Campus Face-to-Face
- Electronic-to-Group
- Self-Supporting

Off-Campus Educational Units

- Higher Education Teaching Site
- Higher Education Centers
 - Single Institution Center
 - Multi-Institutional Teaching Center
 - University System Center
- Branch and Special Purpose Campuses

Distance Education Approval Processes Bachelor's and Master's Programs

Online

(Hybrid/Blended, Fully Online, 100% Online)

- Institution approved to offer program
- Certification Form for Electronically Delivered and Off-Campus Education Programs
- Notification to the THECB that the program is being delivered online

Off-Campus

(Off-Campus Face-to-Face, Electronic-to-Group, Self-Supporting)

- Institution approved to offer program
- Certification Form for Electronically Delivered and Off-Campus Education Programs
- 50-Mile radius area notification 60 days prior to proposed implementation date including 30 day objection period
- Approved, if no objections or when all objections are resolved

Distance Education Approval Processes for Doctoral Programs

New

- Submit planning notification
- 50-Mile radius area notification and 30 day objection period
- Complete and submit proposal form offer a new doctoral program via distance education
- Staff review
- Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) review and recommendation
- CAWS/Board consideration at regular quarterly meeting

Existing

- 50-Mile radius area notification 60 days prior to proposed implementation date including 30 day objection period
- Complete and submit proposal form to offer an existing doctoral program via distance education
- Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) review and recommendation
- Staff consideration of approval

Study-Abroad and Study in America Courses

- Study-Abroad Courses
 - Off-campus, academic credit instruction which is delivered outside the United States primarily to regular on-campus students.
- Study-in America Courses
 - Off-campus, academic credit instruction which is delivered outside Texas, but in the United States primarily to regular on-campus students.
- Institution must certify the courses meet the THECB Standards for Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Courses through the [Study-Abroad and Study-in-America reporting site](#).

Distance Education Webpage

THECB Home Page



Academic Quality and Workforce Division



Public Universities and Health-Related Institutions



[Distance, Off-Campus, and Self-Supporting Education](#)

Distance Education Portal

- Database of institutional distance education program offerings tied to the institutional program inventory
- Will streamline the distance education approval process
- Phase I (coming soon)
 - Institutional program verification
- Phase II
 - Public display of institutional distance education offerings

Contact Information

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