The Rise of Online Learning in Canadian Universities and Colleges

Select results from the 2019 national survey that tracks the development of online and digital learning in Canadian public post-secondary education.

Survey conducted between June and August 2019 | Full survey results at onlinelearningsurveycanada.ca

- More than three quarters offer online courses for credit.
- 76% of Canadian institutions offer online courses for credit.
- 71% anticipate an increase in next year’s online course registrations.
- Online learning continues to grow within the Canadian higher education sector.
- Online course registrations grew 10% nationally and 14% in Francophone institutions.

Frequent use of multimedia and technology in online learning:
- 93% have blended learning offerings.
- 68% video.
- 63% live online lectures.
- 58% mobile technology.
- 50% social media.

54% use open textbooks.

How important is online learning for your institution’s strategic/academic plan?
- 40% extremely.
- 28% very.
- 20% moderately.
- 12% slightly.
- 10% not at all.

Why is online/blended learning important?
- 42% more convenient.
- 38% more efficient.
- 30% more effective.
- 25% provides new revenue sources.
- 20% attracts students from outside traditional areas.
- 16% increases student engagement.
- 16% improves pedagogic improvements.
- 15% increases student diversity.
- 9% reduces/contains costs.

Micro-credentials and badges:
- 32% badges.
- 19% micro-credentials.
- 7% stackable credits.
- 3% blockchain.
- 42% other.

What do you think about open textbooks?
- 89% additional faculty time required.
- 79% inadequate training and support.
- 61% acceptance of open by faculty.

Why is online/blended learning important?
- 93% additional faculty time required.
- 9% have 39% exploring.
- 12% fully implemented plan.
- 30% plan being implemented.
- 29% are developing a plan.

How is online/blended learning being used?
- 36% professional development.
- 31% admission/retention.
- 21% teaching.
- 20% research.

Unmet needs for online/blended learning:
- 9% have 39% exploring.
- 12% fully implemented plan.
- 30% plan being implemented.
- 29% are developing a plan.

Professional development:
- 89% additional faculty time required.
- 9% have 39% exploring.
- 12% fully implemented plan.
- 30% plan being implemented.
- 29% are developing a plan.

For more information, visit onlinelearningsurveycanada.ca

Prepared March 2020 by eCampusOntario

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