



Distance Education

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Definitions

What is considered distance education?



Definitions

We know what a traditional onsite/in-person class looks like. What is a hybrid or blended method?



Definitions

What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous methods of conducting a class?

Synchronous 	Asynchronous 
Students learn at the same time.	Students learn at different times.
Communication happens in real time.	Communication is not live.
Possibly more engaging and effective.	Possibly more convenient and flexible.
Allows for instant feedback and clarification.	Allows students to work at their own pace.
 Examples Video conferencing, live chat, live streamed videos.	 Examples Email, screencasts, Flipgrid videos, blog posts/comments.

Program Goals and Objectives

Student learning is consistent with the program goals and objectives

Institutional commitment to the administrative oversight of distance education

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through Accreditation

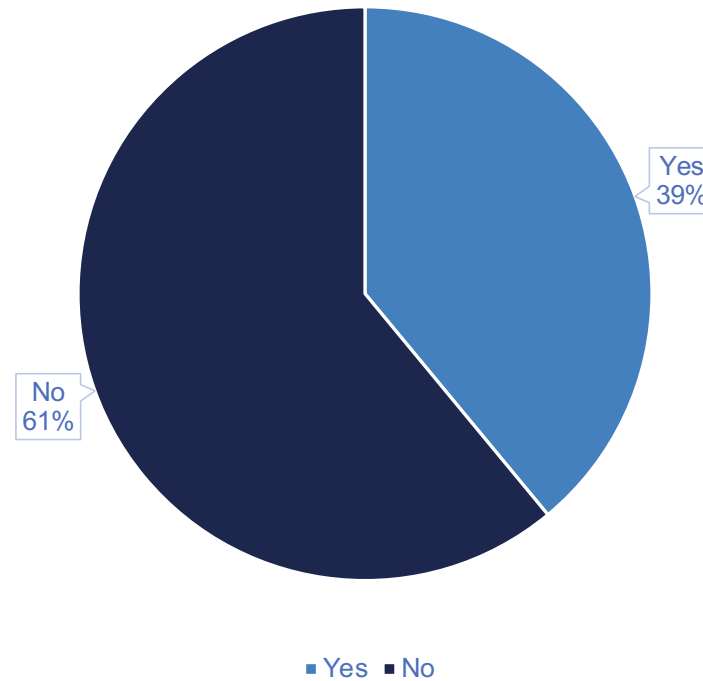


2023 Annual Report

Preliminary Data on Distance Education

Programs Offering DE in 2024

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Amount of Blended Delivery

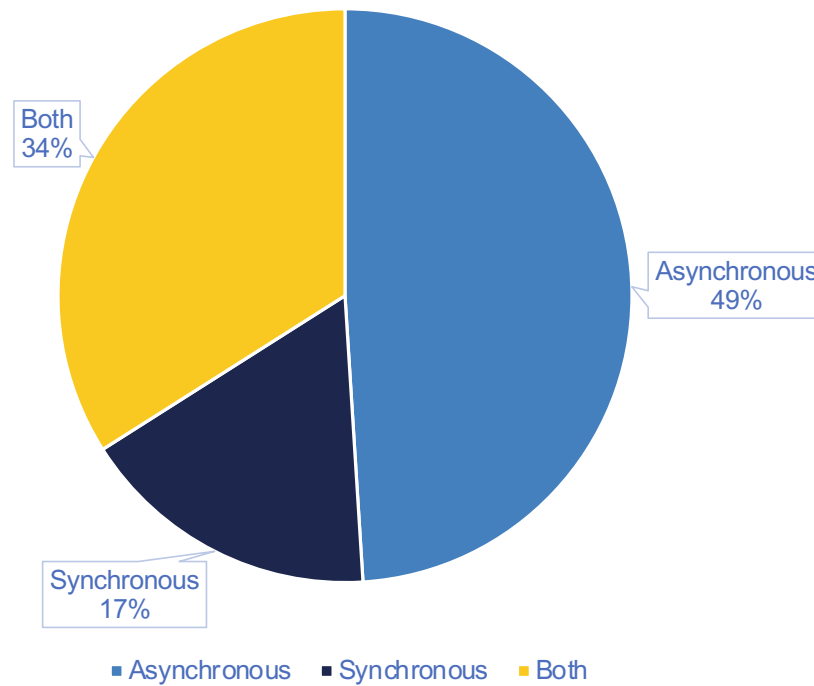
High - 100%

Low - 2%

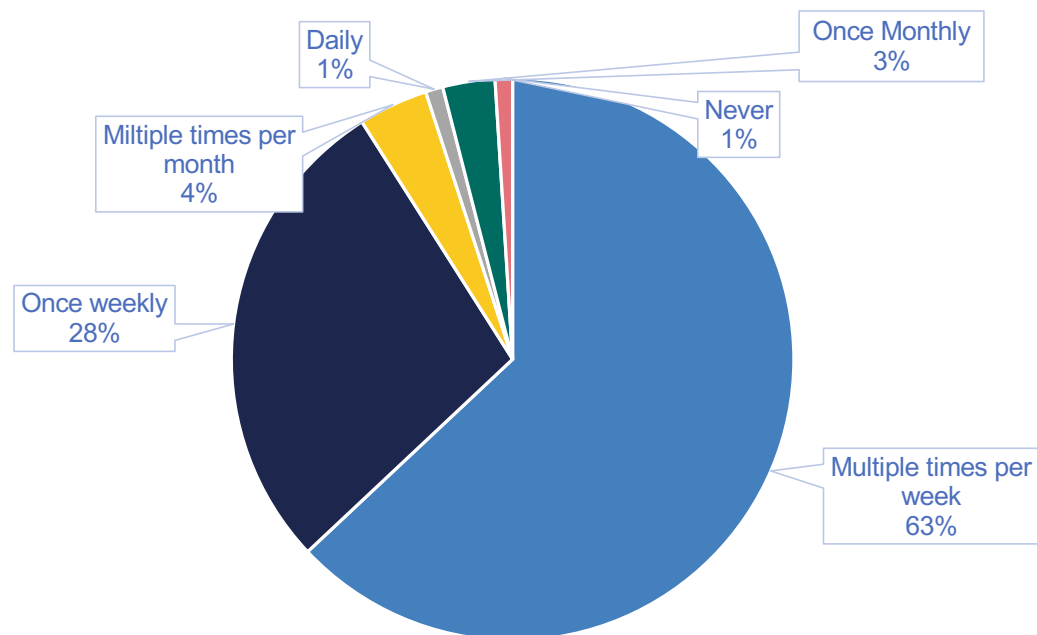


Blended Delivery Format

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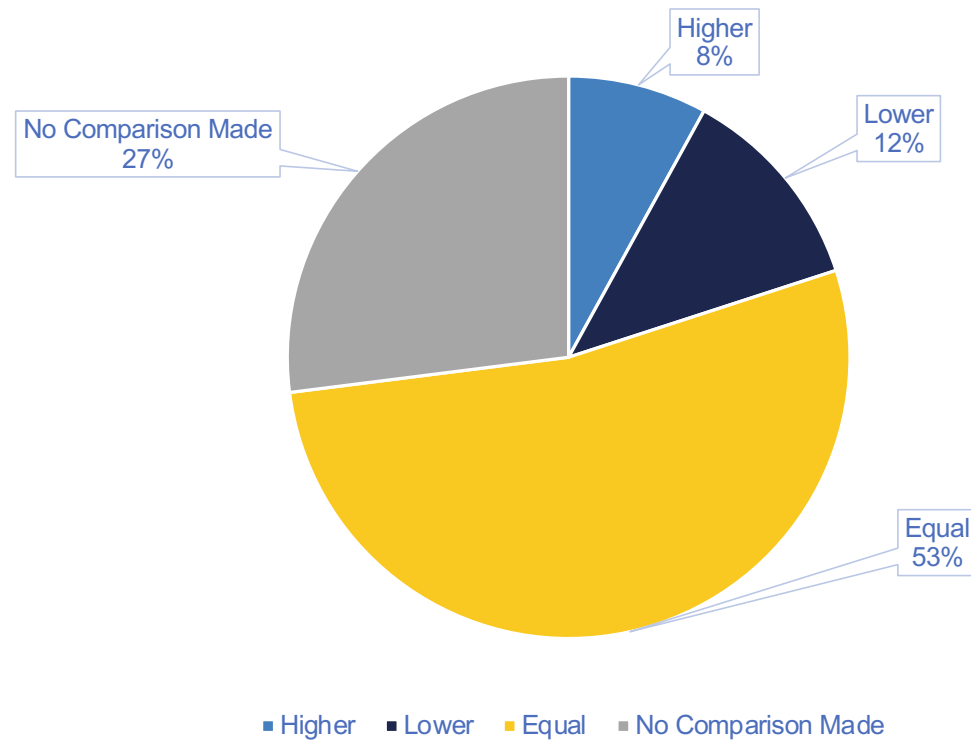


**For Asynchronous
or Both, how often
does an instructor
have direct
interaction with each
student?**



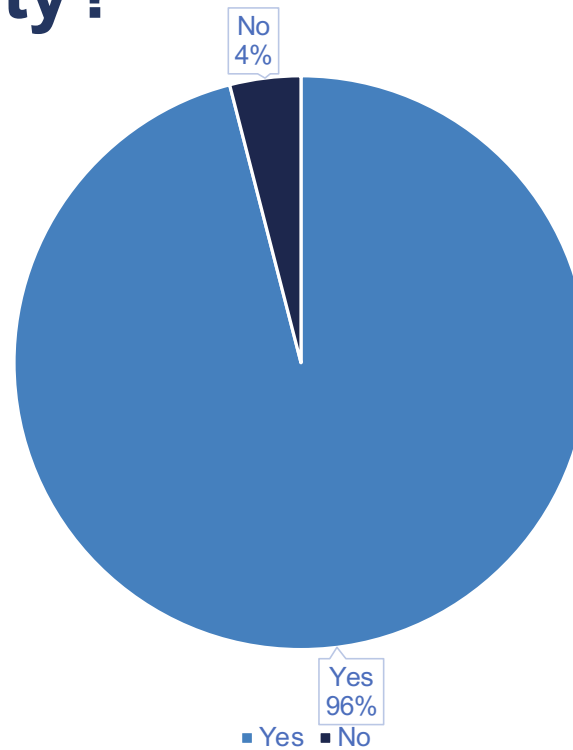
■ Multiple times per week ■ Once weekly ■ Multiple times per month ■ Daily ■ Once Monthly ■ Never

**If both full on-site
and blended learning
formats are offered,
is attrition from the
blended learning
format cohort(s)
higher, lower, or
equal?**



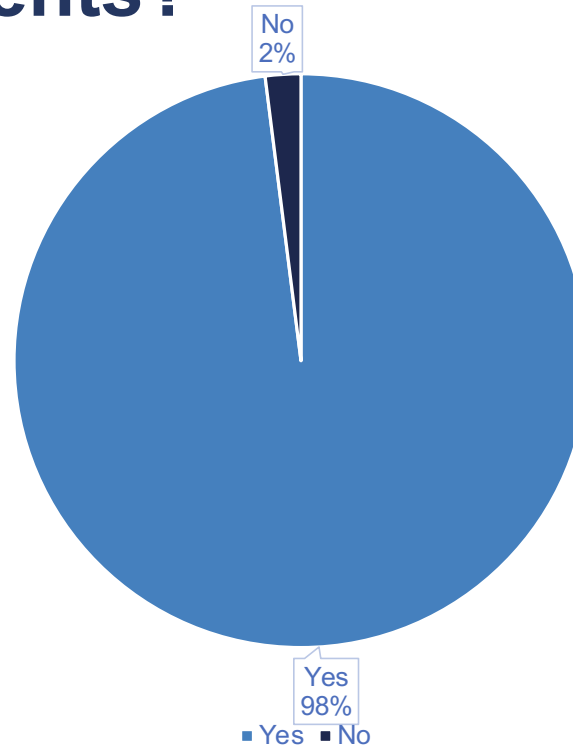
Does the program have technical support for faculty?

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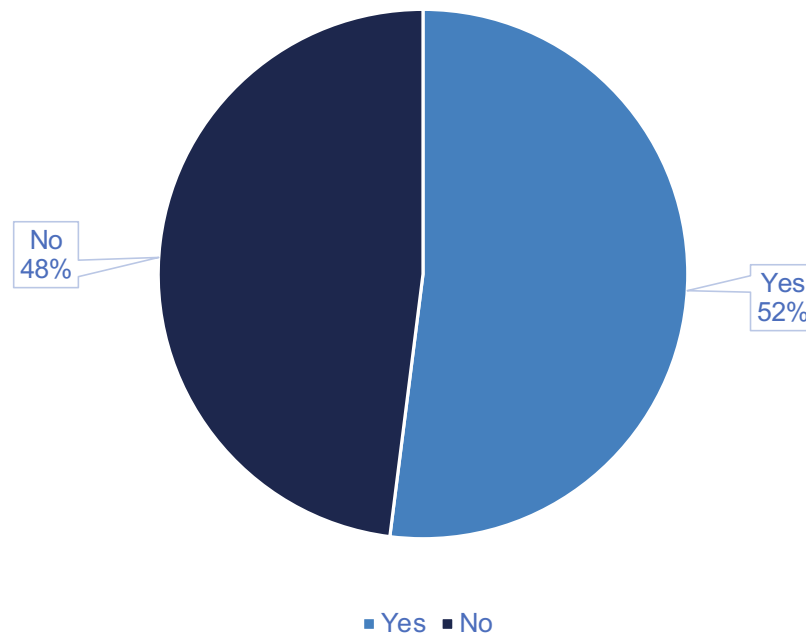
Does the program have technical support for students?

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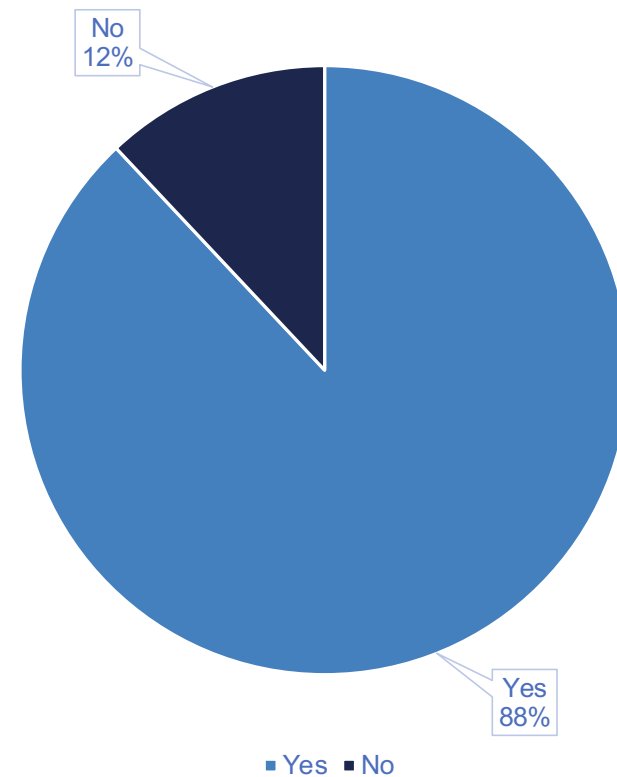
Do students have access to technical support 24 hours a day?

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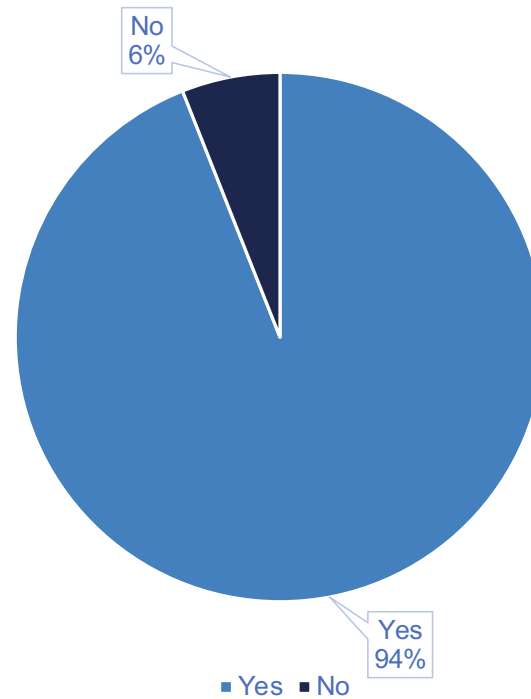
**Does the program
have access to
instructional design
support and/or an
experienced individual
to develop or assist
faculty in
development of
distance education
course(s) content?**

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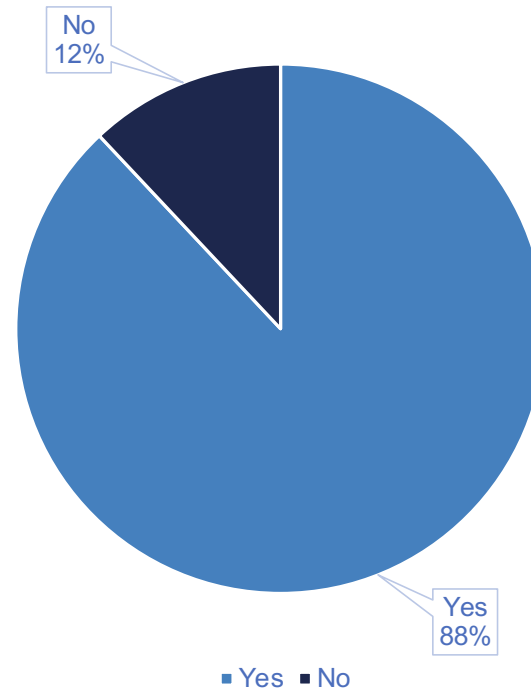
Are students provided with an orientation to the distance education delivery system?

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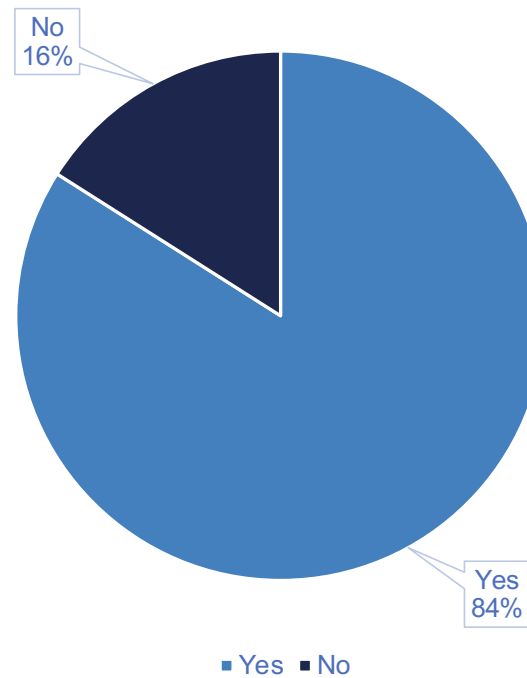
Are faculty provided professional development and training on distance education delivery?

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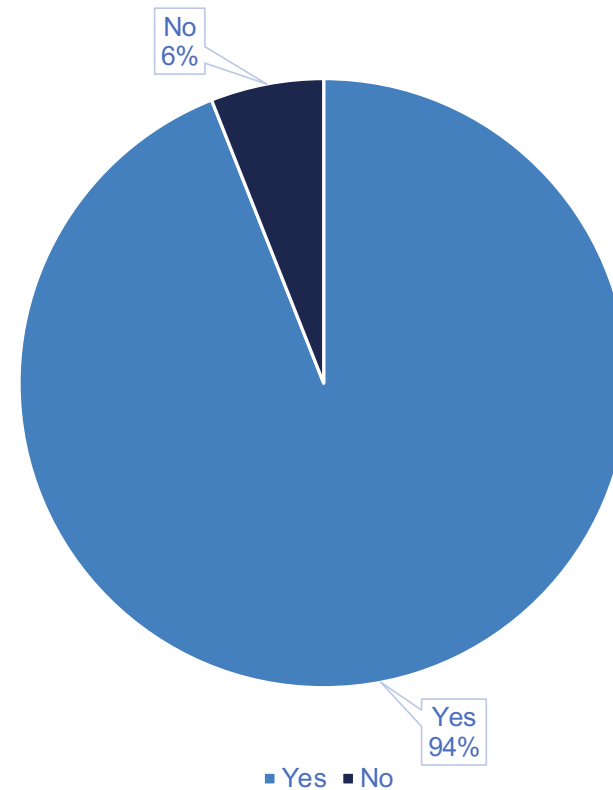
Are the faculty evaluated on their effectiveness in delivery of distance education?

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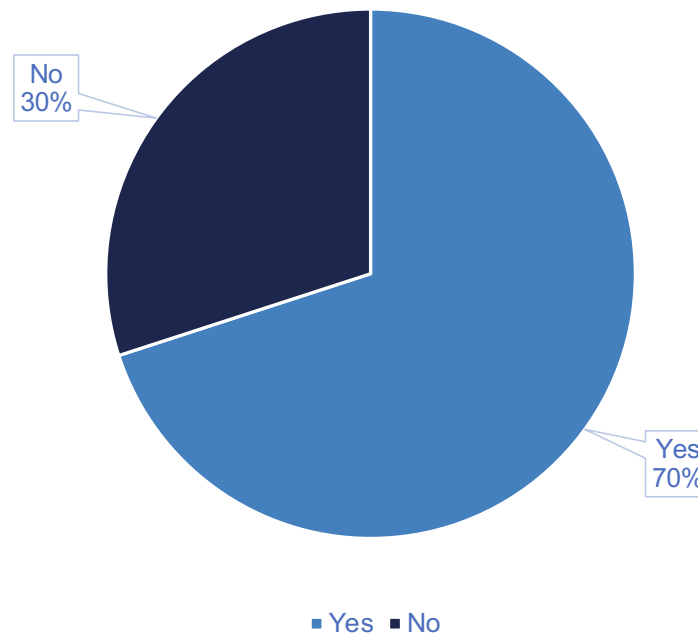


During the student application process, does the program clearly disclose information regarding technology requirements and resources?

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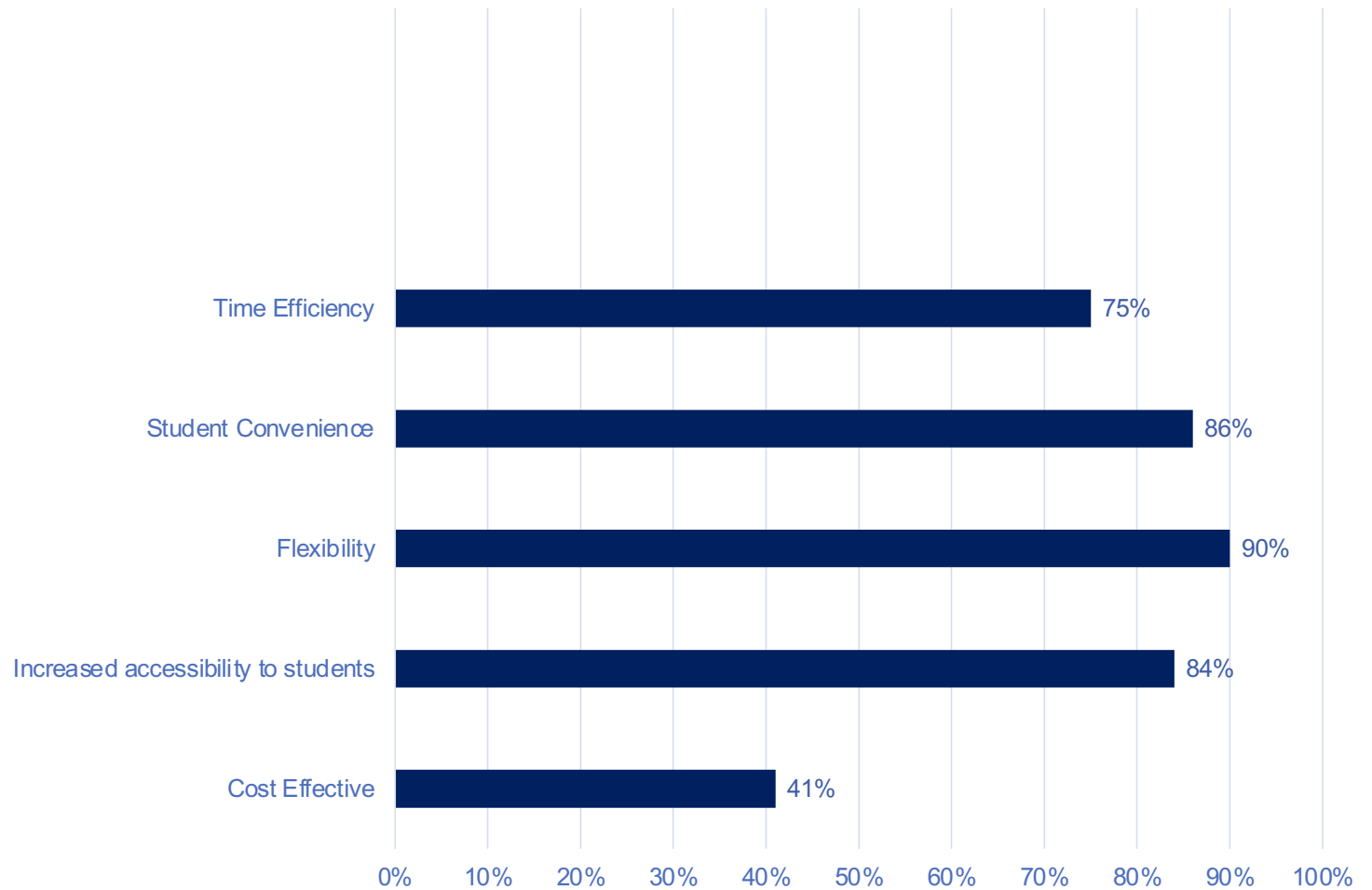
Does the program have an authentication process that verifies student identity before each online student evaluation (e.g., exam)?



Why programs offer blended learning options?



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Application

Can an AEMT or Paramedic program be completely online?

Application

What is meant by substantive interaction with the instructor?

5 ...FACTORS ARE THE FOCUS OF "REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION..."

1. Appropriate form of media used.
2. Instructors meet accreditation requirements.
3. At least 2 of 5 "substantive" activities are used.
4. There are scheduled and predictable interaction opportunities.
5. Instructor responsive to student requests.

Not RSI Compliant	RSI Compliant
 Student-initiated emails to instructor	 Regular Q&A sessions initiated by instructor
 Auto-graded assignments and quizzes	 Assignments and quizzes with <u>substantive</u> feedback
 Recorded video lectures	 Video lectures with <u>interactive</u> discussions

Application

Our class is a traditional in-person format, but we use our learning management system (LMS) to post assignments, videos, and other activities. Is that considered hybrid distance education?



Pat

Application

Our program offers both a traditional in-person course and an online course. Do the programs have to be similar in content, hours, and other requirements?

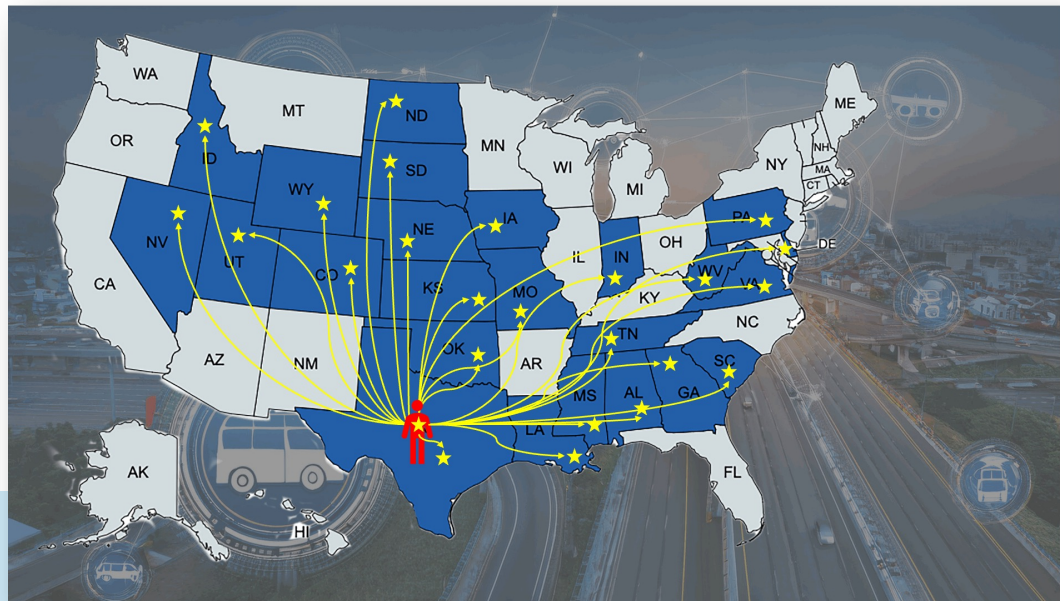


Application

Can students that are living in another state and who are enrolled in my hybrid course complete hospital clinicals and field internship rotations in their local area?

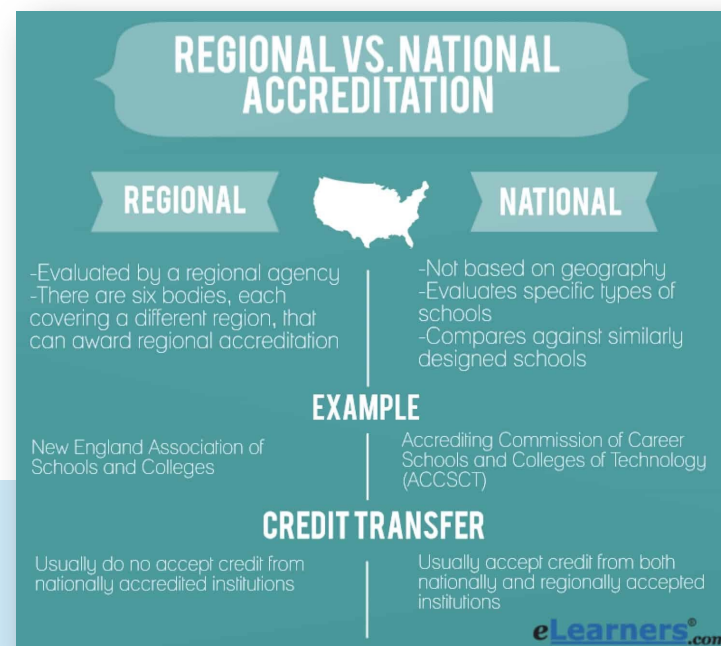
Regulations

Why must I notify the State Office of EMS in each of the states where students are living?



Regulations

Why must I notify our college's institutional accreditor that we are offering a hybrid course?



Mike

Policy

Why does CoAEMSP and CAAHEP have new policies and requirements for distance education now? Programs have been using online learning for some time.

CoAEMSP Policies and Procedures for Programs [Table of Contents](#) | 44

XII. Distance Education

A. Distance Education – Method of Instruction

Distance education means education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support faculty initiated regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include:

1. The internet;
2. One-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices;
3. Audioconferencing; or
4. Video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassettes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).

CAAHEP recognizes the following instructional modalities pertaining to didactic and laboratory instruction. Refer to CAAHEP Policy #209 for the complete policy regarding Instructional Modalities.

1. Full Onsite (In-Person) Delivery: method of delivery in which all didactic and laboratory instruction is provided at an approved location (on or off campus), where instructors and students interact simultaneously in the same physical location.

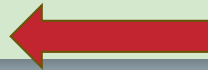
Policy

I know the CAAHEP *Standards* list distance education as a substantive change that must be reported. We have been offering a hybrid course but have not notified CoAEMSP. What do I have to do now? Will we be in trouble?

Standard V.E. Substantive Change

The sponsor must report substantive change(s) as described in Appendix A to the CAAHEP/CoAEMSP in a timely manner. Additional substantive changes to be reported to CoAEMSP within the time limits prescribed include:

1. Change in sponsorship
2. Change in location
3. Addition of a satellite location
4. Addition of an alternate location
5. Addition of a distance learning program



Students

What additional policies or information must I provide for students enrolled in a hybrid course?

Technology requirements

Technical support

LMS instructions

Students

Our hybrid course is asynchronous. How can I verify that the individual completing the assignments, watching the videos, and taking the exams is the enrolled student?



Faculty

We are considering adding a hybrid option. What preparation do my instructors need?

Curriculum design

Instructional methodology

Professional development

Assessment of faculty effectiveness

Reporting

We offer both traditional classroom and hybrid options. How do I report these on the CoAEMSP Annual Report?

Add anticipated reporting year: 2026 report?

STAY TUNED



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Distance Education Evaluation Tool May 2025

The considerations below are specific to CAAHEP distance education delivery and serve as a focus to evaluate programs engaged in distance education delivery.

CAAHEP Standard	Met/ Not Met	Consideration	Evidence	Comments
I.A. Program Sponsor		The program sponsor has appropriate approval(s) to offer distance education - institutional accreditor and state, as applicable	The program provided evidence of approval (state agency website, emails, letters) from institutional accreditor to offer distance education. The program provided documentation of one of the following regarding approvals where students are located or participating in program activities (i.e., clinical/practicum /field experiences): 1. state approval(s) 2. state reciprocity 3. state approval(s) not required *State approvals may include, but are not limited to: Departments of Education, Health & Human Services, and State Boards.	

Pat

Implementation Time Frames

January 1, 2026

**A tab will be added to the CoAEMSP Self-Study Report to include data on your distance education program.
The information will be based on the Distance Education Evaluation Tool**

January 1, 2026

New LoR applications will provide information on distance education

July 1, 2026

**Programs submitting a Self-Study Report (SSR) after this date will be required to complete relevant
information pertaining to distance education**

**Programs currently offering a distance education model are exempt from notifying CoAEMSP. That
information will be included in their next self-study report**

Resources

CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions

CoAEMSP Policies and Procedures

CAAHEP Policies and Procedures

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Distance Education

Distance Education Evaluation Tool

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