State University System of Florida
Distance Learning Catalog
2009-2010 Budget

Total Budget Need: $100,000

Purpose:
Support and enhance the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog as an interactive, Internet-based central point of access to distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary education institutions to assist in the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access.

Program Description:
Since its first year, the Florida Distance Learning Consortium has operated an online catalog of distance learning courses offered by its member institutions. The listings are updated on a semester by semester basis and contain basic information about the courses offered, services offered by the institutions and links to admission and enrollment information for students. In response to requests and consistent with the growth of offerings in e-learning, the Consortium converted its list of online program offerings to a searchable database. Users can now search for complete programs by institution, degree level, title, etc. Institutions have complete control of their listed degree programs on the site. For 2006-07 the catalog listed 12,883 courses. So far for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 10,876 courses have been listed so the growth trend is continuing. The Degree Options Searchable Database that was launched in 2007 currently lists 364 degrees from certificate to doctorate level.

The 2008 Legislature placed the online catalog in statute and further required that the Florida Distance Learning Consortium establish operational guidelines and procedures and to make additional enhancements to the catalog.

Enhancement:
The 2008-2009 Legislature established in statute the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog and assigned operational oversight to the Florida Distance Learning Consortium. Although Consortium staff has operated the catalog since 1996, the new legislation requires specific enhancements to the information listed in the catalog and its reporting capabilities. The catalog must include an Internet-based analytic tool that allows for the collection and analysis of data including:
- The number and type of students who use the catalog to search for distance learning courses and degree programs.
- The number and type of requests for information on distance learning courses and degree programs not listed in the catalog.
- A comparison of distance learning course and degree program cost data.
- An evaluation of course completions, graduation, and retention rates of students

enrolled in distance learning courses.
- A summary of specific requests by course type or course number, delivery method, offering institution, and semester.
- Other types of data as determined by the Consortium.

The online catalog will be reviewed by the Florida Distance Learning Task Force and additional features or revisions may be required as a result of its report.