

## MECC Distance Education Strategic Plan

*Approved by DEIT 4-23-09  
Revised by DEIT 9-24-09*

### Goal 1: Provide strong, collective college leadership for distance education.

Strategy	Action	Goal Date	Leader	QEP Alignment
Publish best practices of distance education.	Review and adopt nationally recognized best practices and distribute Blackboard “hints”.	Spring 2011	QEP/DEIT	SLO 2-2
Develop advising guidelines to ensure students are ready for distance education courses.	Assess outcomes of the FAST Initiative as a testing and remediation strategy and use by advisors	Spring 2013	BIT/IR & Deans (the FAST Initiative is in progress and the “advising guidelines assessment” will determine it further use by advisors.	SLO 1-1
Establish a minimum professional development training schedule for all faculty teaching distance education courses.	Develop a timeline of professional development available for faculty.	Spring 2010	Coordinator of Distance Education and Instructional Technology Team	SLO 2-1a, 2-2b, 2-3b
Require minimum technical skills standards for online teachers and create a process for assessing faculty readiness to meet those standards.	1. Use FAST Initiative to develop a list of minimum technology skills to allow Division Deans to assess faculty readiness. (Rationale – use student required skill list for faculty) 2. Develop a training schedule to meet faculty training needs. Assessment used to identify campus technology strengths/weaknesses.	Fall 2010	QEP/DEIT	SLO 2-1b

**Goal 2. Provide broadly accessible distance education and services to students.**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Goal Date</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>QEP Alignment</b>
Provide a tutorial for on-line learners.	Design and develop tutorial for using features of Blackboard.	Fall 2010	Coordinator of Distance Education/QEP	SLO 1-2
Provide technical support services that are accessible to students.	Assess current levels of services and make recommendations for improvements.	Spring 2010	Coordinator of IT	NA
Maintain access to support services for distance education learners (registration, advising, tutoring, library and bookstore).	Assess results of distance education student satisfaction surveys and make recommendations for improvement.	In Progress	DEIT	NA

**Goal 3: Provide support to faculty in the delivery of high quality distance education instruction.**

Strategy	Action	Goal Date	Leader	QEP Alignment
<p>Provide professional development activities for all faculty teaching distance education courses, such as developing informational newsletters and electronic communications on Blackboard and other instructional resources. Additional activities include developing an online faculty lounge or forum to discuss issues related to online instruction.</p>	<p>Follow professional development activities outlined in QEP and develop MECC-DE list serv.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>QEP/DEIT</p>	<p>SLO 2-1, 2-2, 2-3b</p>

**Goal 4: Establish and support processes that facilitate the delivery of distance education.**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Goal Date</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>QEP Alignment</b>
Study the issue of proctored assignments and tests to determine the feasibility of implementation.	Determine status of MECC and adopt national best practices.	Spring 2011	DEIT	NA
Further develop the college's website to ensure student and faculty access to distance education courses, services, and relevant information.	Survey faculty and students.	Ongoing	Distance Education Coordinator	NA

**Goal 5. Assure e-learning courses, programs and services meet quality benchmarks.**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Goal Date</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>QEP Alignment</b>
Establish baseline data on student success in e-learning courses, compared to traditionally delivered courses, and establish student success outcome goals.	Strategies and outcomes have been identified in the QEP.	2014	IR staff/QEP	QEP Assessment Plan
Publish an online template which models essential elements of online courses.	Design a consistent and user friendly Blackboard front page.	Spring 2010	Distance Education coordinator and Departmental Deans	SLO 2-1
Continually monitor externally established best practices for distance education by SACS and VCCS.	Establish actions for those that need to be met.	Ongoing	DEIT	NA