UA Initiative for the Development of Online Programs

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Program Title: Distance Learning Initiative for Information Assurance and Technology Management and Beyond

Project Description
The Department of Management Information Systems (MIS) in the Eller College of Management, University of Arizona will develop and support a distance learning (DL) program offering of MIS courses at the graduate and undergraduate level in the areas of Information Assurance (IA) and Technology Management (TM). These courses will benefit several underserved population segments including military personnel, IT security professionals and UA continuing education students. Courses will be developed using interactive and innovative methods and teaching/learning techniques that will enhance the student learning experience. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop and offer the entire Master’s in MIS program online.

Goals
Year 1: A total of three courses will be developed and offered. Courses will be based upon current graduate level ground MIS courses and will be offered throughout the year on a rolling semester basis. Consensus among instructors/faculty on course standards will be reached and met on all course development.

Year 2: A total of four courses will be developed upon (a) current graduate level ground courses, and (b) newly developed online courses. Courses content will include technology management and Business Intelligence topics. Continued consensus among instructors/faculty on course standards will be reached and met on all course development.

What was accomplished?
Three Year 1 courses were developed and have been offered for several semesters. A total of 36 students have completed or are taking MISonline courses. The average student demographic is 30 – 50 year old white males representing a variety of industries including IT security, aerospace, and financial services. These three courses also provide students with industry specific certificates from the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS). Four Year 2 courses are currently being developed. Each course has succeeded in meeting their timeline milestones. Blackboard and PowerPoint templates have been developed and are being used which help maintain quality standards and consistencies amongst all MISonline courses.

Assessment
Students who have started MISonline courses have been successful in their completion and have received high marks in exams, discussion participation, quizzes, and labs. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to communicate freely with their instructor on course content and their learning experiences. Course evaluations are given at the end of the course. Students are asked how to improve the online classroom learning experience. Suggestions received from these responses are then incorporated into future class offerings. Course evaluation templates are used for all MISonline courses which gives the team a basis of comparison. Instructors are also encouraged to add their own course specific assessment questions.

Future Plans
Future plans include completion of the rest of the Master’s in MIS course offerings and to begin to develop and offer MIS undergraduate programs. Course development will continue to include new technologies that enhance students learning experiences while providing world-class content.

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