

Project Title: Factors and Conditions which Enhance the Effectiveness of Distance Learning Instruction in a College Environment

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Study Overview: This study examined the differences between two modes of delivery of distance education classes. Using a mixed methods approach, researchers collected data from 19 professors and 235 students in eight web-based courses, and twelve synchronous video (IVDL) courses.

Findings: The study results revealed the effectiveness of distance-learning instruction depends to a larger extent on the dimension, the size of the classroom, the level of the teacher's technology skills, and certain student demographic characteristics. Overall, students perceived the major strength of distance education in general to be feedback, and students perceived IVDL classes as being significantly more effective in promoting higher order thinking and collaboration than web-based classes. The authors discuss their findings and provide suggested groundwork and principles for the incorporation of either mode of delivery in educational institutions.