

Distance Education Advising Commission Standards for Advising Distance Learners

The following standards have been developed to address many of the categories identified in the Academic Advising CAS standards. Institutions engaged in distance education are expected to:

- Adhere to all applicable federal, state, and accrediting agency regulations and policies
- Offer a minimum set of core services which assist distance learners in identifying and achieving their education goals
- Employ a myriad of technologies in the delivery of distance education and related services
- Provide leadership and an organizational structure that supports students, faculty, and advisors
- Offer appropriate professional development activities and support for staff and faculty advisors
- Engage in continuous evaluation of program quality by reviewing factors such as educational effectiveness, student learning outcomes, student retention, student/faculty satisfaction, etc.
- Commit sufficient technical and financial resources on a continuing basis in the delivery of services to distance learners
- Present the programs and services available accurately in marketing materials
- Assess applicants to ensure that students have the knowledge and technical skills needed to undertake the program
- Provide an orientation to introduce new students to the distance education environment
- Provide appropriate student support services for distance learners as they would for students on campus
- Provide a single point of contact for the services commonly accessed by distance learners
- Create opportunities for connection and community with the institution, faculty, staff, and other students
- Respond to the unique needs of distance learning students, rather than expecting them to fit within the established organizational structure

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