

Class Session 10: Managing Distance Education Organizations

Leaders in distance education must be able to design strategic plans. They are responsible for defining vision, mission, goals, and objectives of their institutions. They must also be able to anticipate any change in trends, track emergency technological options, as well as projecting resources and financial needs.

Leaders in distance learning are responsible for staffing. They must decide the number of full-time teachers and online teachers their programs are going to have. Usually, the number of part-time teachers is bigger than the full-time, because benefits must be paid for full-time employees.

Budgeting decision is a very important role leaders play in distance education. They must decide the amount of money that is going to be spent in course development, technology, staff, support services, learning services, administration, and marketing. Cost of tuition will depend on how much the institution is willing to spend in all these areas. Leaders should be able to succeed if they have some knowledge of finance.

Distance education cannot be possible without technology; therefore, leaders must be able to select the appropriate software and computers that will satisfy their institution needs. They are also responsible for training their personnel in the use of these software and computers. It is recommended that students have their own device to reduce the amount of money spent on maintenance and replacement of hardware and software.