

Calculating Courses with Small Amounts of Alternate Technologies

Sometimes a traditional face to face course has an online meeting every week for an hour or two; or perhaps an online course requires two days of face to face meetings each term. In these cases it can be difficult to determine the right percentage to assign to the alternative technology.

To keep this fairly simple here's a formula you can use to do this.

1. TOTAL DAYS: Count the total number of days (7 days per week) between the beginning and the ending date of the course.
2. ALTERNATIVE DAYS: Count the total number of days upon which the alternative technology will be used.
3. ALTERNATIVE RATIO: Determine the average/approximate number of hours on each of those days the alternative technology will be used and assign the following ratio factor.
 - a. 1 or 2 hours = .25
 - b. 3 or 4 hours = .5
 - c. 5 or 6 hours = .75
 - d. 7 or more hours – 1.00

Formula: $((\text{ALTERNATIVE DAYS} * \text{ALTERNATIVE RATIO}) / \text{TOTAL DAYS})$

Examples

You have a traditional course that meets for 16 weeks. Once a week there is also an Adobe Connect Session for all students. The Adobe connect session lasts for 90 minutes.

TOTAL DAYS IS: 112 (16 weeks*7 days per week)
ALTERNATIVE DAYS IS: 16 (16 weeks *1 day per week)
ALTERNATIVE RATIO IS: .25 (1 or 2 hours = .25)
 $((16 * .25)/112) = 0.035714 = 3.57\%$.

You have an online course that meets for 10 weeks. At the end of the ten weeks the students come to Gainesville and meet for two days, eight hours a day.

TOTAL DAYS IS: 70 (10 weeks*7 days per week)
ALTERNATIVE DAYS IS: 2 (2 days)
ALTERNATIVE RATIO IS: 1.00 (7 or more hours = 1.00*)

*When you have a ratio of 1.00 of course it doesn't change the total value, but it's easiest to just keep a standard formula.

$((2*1.0)/70) = 0.28571 = 2.86\%$

Feel free to adjust the results from this standard formula according to your intuition, common sense, good judgment, etc. It's just a handy guideline for you to use.