

DLEL COMMITTEE REPORT

The DLeL Committee met on October 15, 2021 to consider two questions. A quorum of the committee unanimously recommends the following actions.

Present: Henry Dietz, Shannon Oltmann, Allison Gibson, Sara Police, Yuha Jung, Miranda Hines, Roger Brown. Absent: Elizabeth Tovar, Simon Sheather, Akiko Takenaka, Kathy Hamperian, Jennifer Pusateri.

(1) What is a Fully Online Program?

Background. The Senate Council charged the DLeL committee to recommend how the Senate Council should define a "fully online program" (see [top of this page](#) from the [9/20/21 SC meeting](#)).

- The SC approved required use of the "Fully Online Delivery Form" at its [September 20, 2021 meeting \(minutes\)](#).
- The SC approved the new form with the following working definition of a fully online program: "a fully online program is any degree program, certificate program, major, track, or minor which is earned by a student who only enrolls in 'fully online' courses."
- The term "fully" implies that there is a not-fully online program, which we and the Senate may not want to entertain, encourage, or allow. Thus, we might prefer to talk simply about an "online delivery form" rather than a "fully online delivery form".

Recommendation. Rename the form the "Online Program Delivery Form" and define "online program delivery" as:

Online Delivery of an Academic Program: A formal policy designation attached to a Senate-approved degree program, certificate program, major, minor, track, concentration, or specialization that recognizes: (1) all of the associated instructional content is delivered fully online, and (2) the relevant faculty bodies support such designation. NOTE: Some non-instructional program requirements (e.g., orientation and testing) may or may not be in-person. Online instruction is instruction via internet, satellite or wireless communication, and audio and video conferencing.

Rationale. UKOnline has historically used the [Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System](#) (IPEDS) organization's [definition](#) of "distance education" to identify online programs at UK. These programs are sometimes called "fully" online even though the UK and IPEDS definition allows programs to have some non-instructional activities (e.g., orientation and testing) to be required in-person. The definition we propose would require programs to satisfy IPEDS' (i.e., UKOnline's) definition of an online program (i.e., criterion one) and additionally demonstrate that the relevant faculty bodies that report to the Senate have been consulted and approve of the program being designated as an online program (criterion 2). The DLeL committee believes that UK's use of the terms "online", "fully online", or similar terminology to describe academic programs is an academic characterization and, as such, requires Senate approval using this form.

(2) What to do about existing UKOnline programs?

Background. How should faculty bodies who are responsible for programs that are [currently advertised and/or recognized as online](#) signal their approval to continue as such and their agreement to comply with the newly clarified Senate requirements?

- There are currently [88 programs](#) that already have Senate approval (as programs) and that [UKOnline](#) already advertises as online. Of those, 6 are doctoral programs, 25 are Masters programs, 8 are Bachelors programs, 37 are graduate certificate programs, 7 are undergraduate certificate programs, 1 is a post-graduate certificate, 1 is a specialist program, and 3 lead to external graduate certification.
- There is also [1 other program](#) that has Senate approval (as a program) but has not launched via [UKOnline](#) because it is waiting to fill a vacant faculty position.
- There are [4 other programs](#) that are in the process of seeking Senate approval as programs that, if approved, [UKOnline](#) would recognize as fully online based on historical practice. Three of these programs are at the level of the Grad Council and one is at the college level.
- The effective date that SC set was October 1, 2021 for requiring use of the form, meaning that all of the programs identified above (n = 93) will not have to use the form.

Recommendation. For program proposals that have not used or are not required to use the form, require the local unit administrator (e.g., department chair) associated with the faculty body that is in charge of the program to attest (e.g., in a Qualtrics form) that the faculty body (1) has studied the newly clarified Senate requirements for fully online program approval and (2) does approve of the program continuing as such. Once we get those attestations, I will invite the DLeL committee to review them, and then we will ask SC and Senate to grant them expedited "batch" approval.

Rationale. We should make it as easy as possible for the programs that are already recognized as fully online (and coded in SAP as such) or whose proposals for online designation are already beyond the level of the college. The idea is that we don't need these programs to start over and can instead receive expedited "batch" approval through attestation, much like was done recently to [get approval for existing University Scholars Programs](#).