

Distance Learning Technologies

A Timeline of K-State's Educational Delivery Methods

Today



Utilizing social technologies

Today, the way students receive and respond to course content continues to evolve with the use of social media sites, wikis, video/interactive content, and other technologies. Many courses incorporate these media into the virtual classroom to facilitate learning, collaboration, and communication.

2010s

Accelerated courses trending

More courses with shorter, accelerated schedules are developed to meet adult learner needs and align with trends in continuing higher education.



Going global, digitally

In 2004, distance education students represented all 50 states and 10 foreign countries.

2000s

From VHS to disc, and beyond

In the early 2000s, course material that had been recorded on VHS tapes and mailed to students switched to CD-ROM delivery, or became available online.

The onset of online learning

K-State offers its first online class and online degree program in 1996, followed by the launch of "K-State Online," the university's course management system, in 1998.



1990s

Videoconferencing makes its debut

TELENET 2 launches, providing videoconferencing services for distance delivery and communication throughout the state.



Telecourses air on public television

PBS programming runs course content on TV in 1984. Students tune in at certain dates and times to view the course series on air, the most popular of which was a course on Vietnam.

1980s

Distance classes distributed via newspaper

The first course, "America and the Future of Man," in 1973 includes 20 written lectures by the nation's most distinguished teachers and scholars. An article about newspaper course delivery states, "A student studies this unique course in his own home and at his own pace."



1970s

Audioconferencing services available

In 1970, the Kansas Regents Network establishes TELENET, an audioconference network with site locations throughout Kansas.



Instructors drive statewide to deliver courses

K-State instructors rent state cars, drive to various Kansas towns, and teach courses on-location in the late 1960s. This face-to-face delivery was termed "Windshield" time.

1960s

Division of Continuing Education established

The Kansas Board of Regents establishes the Division in 1966.