

## **Distance Education Task Force Meeting Minutes**

### **11/21/00**

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DETF members met on Tuesday, November 21st, 2000 to discuss issues related to independent studies (known as correspondence classes), registration, and student financial aid.

Approximately 7,500 people are currently taking independent study classes through the College of Continuing Studies. About half of these are high school students - some taking high school level classes and some taking college level courses. (The numbers are going up for the college level courses.)

Some on-campus students take courses they need through independent study, when they cannot schedule it in. Some independent study students live overseas. Some are people who leave UA without graduating and who want to finish their degree.

Agreement: (This does not apply to the high school students taking high school level courses)

1. Independent Studies and the Registrar's Office will work with the Seebeck Computing Center to find or develop the best way to transfer independent study student names into the Registrar's head-count when the student pays for the class, instead of waiting until the student has completed the class.
2. Independent Studies will give an automatic W after 12 months to independent study students who have not completed a course, unless they pay for an extension. (This does not apply to fee-waiver students.)

Benefits: This will provide a much more accurate headcount and a more accurate indicator of faculty work loads. This will also be more consistent with policies for on-campus students, yet protects the interests of independent study students.

Thank you for your teamwork on this issue. As usual, please let me know if there are deficiencies in my summary, and we will fix them.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th at 2 p.m. I hope by then that those task force members who are benchmarking other schools will be able to share their findings.