

Distance Education

Institution: University of Hawai'i Hilo
Name of reviewer/s: Cherron Hoppes, Carmen Sigler and Jackie Donath
Date/s of review: October 23, 2014

1. Programs and courses reviewed (please list)

- BA. Communication
- BA Psychology
- MA in Indigenous Languages and Culture Education
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- MAT Master of Arts in Teaching
- BBA Bachelor Business Administration
- Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

2. Background Information (number of programs offered by distance education; degree levels; FTE enrollment in distance education courses/programs; history of offering distance education; percentage growth in distance education offerings and enrollment; platform, formats, and/or delivery method)

In the five year period between 2008 and 2013, UH Hilo dramatically increased the number of course sections and enrollments in DL.

AY 2008-2009	76 sections	1390 registrations
AY 2013-2013	187	3411

3. Description of programs and courses:

- **BA—Communication** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngBAComm.php>
 - In 2009, it became possible for majors to complete 50% or more of their program online. Because of this development, the program was found to be out of compliance with WASC guidelines and required to apply for substantive change approval which later granted.
 - According to the institutional report, the program has not adhered to the assessment timeline because the “larger department” was unaware of the timeline (Accreditation Report, page 33).
- **BA—Psychology** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngBAPsy.php>
 - Initiated in 2002 served students in University Centers on Kauai, Maui and West Hawaii
 - Department decided to discontinue offering an online only program but offers DL classes to both on-campus and off-campus students. No new students added after 2011. Teach-out: 3 students remain and are expected to graduate.
- **Master of Arts in Indigenous Language and Culture Education** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngMAILCe.php>
 - The program prepares teachers for the Hawaiian immersion language schools. In 2006, It began offering seats in courses to students across the State. In 2008, began supporting online courses with an incentive and a course design specialist. However, this support was discontinued in 2011.
 - The MA program is expected to undergo Program Review this academic year. **An assessment of the effectiveness of the distance learning program should be an integral part of this review.**

- **BSN** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngRNtoBSN.php>
 - The School of Nursing offers two program options for students. Option I (BSN) is for the basic student who spends the first two years fulfilling UH Hilo General Education and pre-nursing requirements before formal admission into Nursing in the third year. Option II (RN to BSN) is a program that allows returning RNs to acquire a bachelor's degree. The BSN was inceptioned in 1992. The [RN to BSN](#) program has been in place since Fall 2009. Both BSN and RN to BSN students take DL courses for their major requirements; both sets of students do face-to-face clinical practica. Both did not undergo substantive change review until the Fall of 2011, following UH Hilo's discovery that programs with 50% or more of the credits for major upper division requirements delivered via technology or off campus required such review and approval.

Four programs initiated since 2011:

- **Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT):** MAT is a 2-year program. First cohort began in Summer 2013: 24 out of 26 students have received initial license and are currently just 6 credits short of graduation.
 - The program offered two options (Face to Face and Distance Learning). During the visit, the reviewers learned that the DL option has been discontinued for staffing reasons.
 - **BBA (West Hawai'i)** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngBBA.php>
 - The BBA in West Hawai'i was developed in response to requests by members of the West Hawai'i community. The offsite BBA was approved by WASC on December 2, 2011.
 - Traditional courses are broadcast via Polycom. **According to the institutional report, the program was unable to run assessment for DL students due to the small number of students (pages 33 & 87).**
 - **Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngMSCP.php>
 - The Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology program provides a postdoctoral training program to prepare PhD and PsyD clinical psychologists to safely and effectively use psychotropic medication as one component of their clinical practice. It began in Spring 2011 as an experimental program. It underwent substantive change review and was approved by WASC on June 24, 2011. The program is currently offered to students at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu and other qualified persons desiring advanced training in clinical psychopharmacology.
 - **Doctor of Nursing Practice** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/accreditation/DstLrngDNP.php>
 - The DNP was developed in response to the documented need in Hawaii for professionals with these credentials, in particular in rural and semirural areas of the state. UH Hilo's DNP program was approved by the Board of Regents on May 19, 2011; WASC approved the program on June 24, 2011. The program serves qualified residents of the state of Hawaii. The first cohort entered the program in August 2012 and will graduate in August 2015. According to the report, the program is set to begin collecting assessment data.
4. Nature of the review (material examined and persons/committees interviewed)
 Dr. Cherron Hoppes was granted access to the following two online courses (inactive) to review the instructional design methodology and course structure.

