



News Release

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Distance Education Continues to Grow

MADISON, S.D. – Distance delivery of courses from South Dakota’s public universities continues to grow.

Total student headcount in both spring and summer terms this year increased by 30 percent over the same period a year ago. There were 3,928 students enrolled in distance delivered coursework in spring 2004. Another 2,546 were served in the summer 2004 term. A report, presented Thursday to the South Dakota Board of Regents, covered a variety of distance delivery methods, including video conferencing, Internet, satellite, television, and videocassette.

A majority of students taking distance courses were located off campus—56 percent of them in the spring term and 84 percent last summer. However, a significant share who were enrolled last spring—41 percent—actually completed their distance-delivered courses while on campus at one of the six public universities.

“We are finding the convenience of distance delivery is a selling point not only for students who live far from a campus, but also for those who already spend part of their day in a traditional college classroom,” Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry said.

Total credit hours delivered for all distance education courses in South Dakota’s public university system increased by 28 percent in the spring term, and 41 percent in the summer 2004 term.