



University of Maryland University College

**Master of Science in Distance Education (MDE)  
Information and Technology Systems Department**

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN**  
**Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria**

Summer 2007

**Master of Distance Education Program**

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## **Master of Distance Education Program**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Master of Distance Education Program is an applied degree aimed at developing the managers of distance education and training organizations of the future. The Master of Distance Education Program covers a broad range of topics and themes needed by distance education and training professionals in a global environment.

Upon completion of the Master of Distance Education Program, graduates will be able to:

- Develop a mission and vision for the implementation of distance education within an organization;
- Function effectively as leader, manager, and team member within a distance education or training organization;
- Devise best practices in online distance education and training according to the organization's context and needs;
- Develop strategic goals and business plans for distance education within an organization;
- Analyze an organizational distance education technology plan;
- Manage the implementation of technology in distance delivery and design; and
- Assess the necessary support services for a distance education program.

## Master of Distance Education Program

### PROGRAM OF STUDY

#### CORE COURSES

|          |                                                    |                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| UCSP 611 | Introduction to Graduate Library Research Skills   | 0 credit hours |
| OMDE 601 | Foundations of Distance Education                  | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 603 | Technology in Distance Education                   | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 610 | Teaching and Learning in Online Distance Education | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 606 | Costs and Economics of Distance Education          | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 608 | Learner Support in Distance Education and Training | 3 credit hours |

Students must complete the following core courses within one chosen track.

#### Distance Education Technology

|          |                                                                   |                |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| DEPM 604 | Leadership in Distance Education                                  | 3 credit hours |
| DETC 630 | Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning Systems in DE               | 3 credit hours |
| DETC 620 | Training and Learning with Multimedia                             | 3 credit hours |
| IMAT 639 | Multimedia and Internet Applications                              | 3 credit hours |
| DETT 607 | Instructional Design and Course Development in Distance Education | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 625 | Globalization, Development and Distance Education                 | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 670 | Portfolio and Project in Distance Education                       | 3 credit hours |

or

#### Distance Education Teaching & Training

|          |                                                                   |                |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| DETT 607 | Instructional Design and Course Development in Distance Education | 3 credit hours |
| DETC 620 | Learning and Training with Multimedia                             | 3 credit hours |
| DETT 621 | Training at a Distance                                            | 3 credit hours |
| DETT 615 | Assessment and Quality Assurance in Distance Education            | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 611 | Library and Intellectual Property in Distance education           | 3 credit hours |
| EDTC 500 | Virtual Learning in K-12                                          | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 670 | Portfolio and Project in Distance Education                       | 3 credit hours |

or

## Master of Distance Education Program

### Distance Education Policy & Management

|          |                                                         |                |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| DEPM 604 | Leadership in Distance Education                        | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 622 | The Business of Distance Education                      | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 611 | Library and Intellectual Property in Distance education | 3 credit hours |
| DETT 615 | Assessment and Quality Assurance in Distance Education  | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 625 | Globalization Development and Distance Education        | 3 credit hours |
| DEPM 609 | Distance Education Systems                              | 3 credit hours |
| OMDE 670 | Portfolio and Project in Distance Education             | 3 credit hours |

**Master of Distance Education Program**

**DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Master of Distance Education Program.

| SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES<br>Master of Distance Education Program                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SOURCE                                                                                                                                                 | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME<br>(if applicable)                                |
| Core Learning Areas of the UMUC Graduate School of Management and Technology                                                                           | <p>UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified institutional CLAs into each degree program. The CLAs for the Graduate School of Management and Technology are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Communication (COMM)</li> <li>• Technology Fluency (TECH)</li> <li>• Information Literacy (INFO)</li> <li>• Quantitative Literacy (QUAN)</li> <li>• Critical Thinking (THIN)</li> </ul> <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p> | <a href="#">UMUC Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</a> |
| Internationally recognized graduate programs in the field of Distance Education.                                                                       | Programs including those offered by The Open University of the United Kingdom, Athabasca University (Canada), and the University of Southern Queensland (Australia), as well as North American programs, including those offered by the University of Wisconsin and the University of British Columbia (Canada).                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                |
| Various professional organizations, such as the International Council of Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and related distance education literature. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                |

**Master of Distance Education Program**

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The program outcomes for the Master of Distance Education Program are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Master of Distance Education Program.

| <b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES<br/>Master of Distance Education Program</b> |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>                                        | <b>PROGRAM OUTCOME</b>                                                                                                                                                       |
| COMM                                                             | Present summaries, essays, analyses, and recommendations in written and/or oral forms in an effective and professional manner in the area of distance education and training |
| TECH                                                             | Select distance education technologies and media on the basis of the educational and operational characteristics appropriate to organizational and student needs.            |
| INFO                                                             | Utilize published literature for basic and applied research in the area of distance education and training and apply techniques accepted in the field.                       |
| QUAN                                                             | Develop budgets for distance education development and delivery systems.                                                                                                     |
| THIN                                                             | Evaluate the history and theory of the field of distance education based on review of the relevant literature of the field.                                                  |

**Master of Distance Education Program**

**ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Master of Distance Education Program with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

| CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT<br>Master of Distance Education Program |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                  |                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CORE LEARNING AREA                                           | PROGRAM OUTCOME                                                                                                                                                              | LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK                                                                 | METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT       |
| COMM                                                         | Present summaries, essays, analyses, and recommendations in written and/or oral forms in an effective and professional manner in the area of distance education and training | Develop a comprehensive plan for managing the course development and implementation processes. (OMDE 601)        | Essay and/or Writing Task     |
| TECH                                                         | Select distance education technologies and media on the basis of the educational and operational characteristics appropriate to organizational and student needs.            | Justify the appropriate selection of generic technology(ies) that support broad organizational goals. (OMDE 603) | Essay and/or Writing Task     |
| INFO                                                         | Utilize published literature for basic and applied research in the area of distance education and training and apply techniques accepted in the field.                       | Critically analyze issues in the provision of learner support. (OMDE 608)                                        | Other: Annotated Bibliography |
| QUAN                                                         | Develop budgets for distance education development and delivery systems.                                                                                                     | Evaluate the role of overheads and the problem of cost attribution. (OMDE 606)                                   | Project (Course/Chapter)      |
| THIN                                                         | Evaluate the history and theory of the field of distance education based on review of the relevant literature of the field.                                                  | Outline the history of distance education from early beginnings to current practices. (OMDE 601)                 | Essay and/or Writing Task     |