Face-to-Face, Hybrid, or Full On-line Degree Programs: Implications and Opportunities for Graduate Education Programs in the 21st Century

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Abstract

The purpose of the roundtable will be to discuss the promises and pitfalls of three commonly used degree program formats. As a springboard for discussion the facilitators will present a successful hybrid program being used in a master's degree program training teachers in the area of educational assessment, testing, data-driven decision making, and use of evidence-based practices. The program features a mix of face-to-face courses and asynchronous on-line courses (a hybrid degree program) which allows the students to complete their degrees within fifteen months.

Topics that will guide the discussion include but will not be limited to:

1) How a hybrid program can increase enrollment in graduate education programs,
2) How a hybrid program can increase the graduation rates in graduate education programs,
3) How asynchronous courses can be used effectively,
4) How a hybrid program can effectively reduce time to degree completion,
5) Discussion of student satisfaction for one University using this program format,

Participants will be asked to:
1) Share their experiences with each of the program formats,
2) Discuss advantages and disadvantages of alternative program formats,
3) Provide suggestions for the effective use of these programs,
4) Develop criteria for implementing these programs.

It is hoped that through these discussions participants will develop a better understanding of effective uses of these programs for improving graduation rates, enrollments, and student satisfaction.