The Inter American University is the largest private university in Puerto Rico with nine campuses and two specialized schools, and a total of 46,000 students. The Distance Learning Project of the Bayamón Campus was developed during 1999 by faculty members, students, administrators and technicians. The project started on January 2000 with 11 courses, 13 faculty members and 250 students. During this academic year, 19 courses, 25 faculty members and 460 students are participating in this project.

Nevertheless, some difficulties have been observed: first year students don’t have the computer skills necessary to participate in online courses; the first group of online courses created didn’t have uniformity in design; the process of involving faculty members in the development and design of online courses has been slow; and some technical problems with the university net and the online course platform (“Learning Space) has been observed.

However to improve this project, the following determinations have been adopted: a questionnaire was created to make students aware of their abilities, aptitudes and computer skills necessary to complete an online course. Also, a previous interview by the professors with the student is recommended. Guidelines have been created for the development of the new online courses, with emphasis on the use of a diversity of tools. Continuous workshops are given to faculty members interested in the creation of new online courses and technical support is provided to those who are already offering the courses. Technical problems of students and professors with online courses are channeled through the Faculty Support Center and the Coordinator of the Project.