Non-traditional Students in the Digital Age

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This program is a compilation of two studies regarding non-traditional students and the utilization of distance learning methods. The initial study was conducted to understand the demographic and cultural factors that define the student population of a South Texas masters’-level counseling program. Survey research was conducted online to identify and better meet the needs of a largely non-traditional population. This survey focused on multiple demographic, cultural and geographic challenges faced by students returning to school seeking training as counselors. Changes were made in the course delivery methods based on the results of the survey. The second study, conducted two years after the first, provided a normative evaluation of students’ perceptions of the digital learning methods.