



NEVADA STATE
COLLEGE

Online Learning Vision Statement - Draft

NSC will offer online classes that improve student access to our existing programs and encourage timely degree completion. These classes will be supported by a robust quality assurance program, expert guidance from the CTLE, and training for students. We will also offer a small number of carefully-selected, fully-online programs that have clear benefits to our students and the community.

Guiding Philosophy

NSC will pursue online learning for the following reasons:

1. *Supporting our access mission.* NSC serves a diverse community of students, both in terms of their backgrounds and their reasons for attending college. As a student-centered institution, we provide a diverse range of course offerings to serve these students in a way that accommodates their educational goals, schedules, and preferred learning modalities (online, in-person, hybrid).
2. *Encouraging timely degree completion.* A survey of NSC students revealed that one of the top reasons they leave NSC is an inability to get the classes they need at a time that fits their schedule. Strategic implementation of online courses can help to improve student progress toward a degree by removing scheduling barriers.
3. *Managing growth with space limitations.* NSC's classroom space is limited, particularly during peak times. Online classes allow students to progress toward a degree without requiring classroom space.
4. *Rigorous and engaging learning is possible online.* Videos, online conferences, group discussions, and other learning tools enable instructors to create a legitimately meaningful experience in an online environment. Many students now perceive online learning to be as valuable if not more valuable than in-person classes. A large-scale study of online learners found that "Eighty-six percent of online students believe the value of their degree equals or exceeds the cost they paid for it. For students who have experienced both in-person and virtual classrooms, 85% feel that learning online is as good or better than attending courses on campus."¹
5. *Online course development improves in-person courses.* Strong online classes have a carefully-planned structure, with materials and learning activities for each week that are closely aligned with the course's learning outcomes. This structure can be used to inform the in-person version of the same course.

Overall, our primary guiding principles are access and quality. We want to make our degrees accessible to a diverse range of students while maintaining our highest ideals.

¹ Magda, A. & Aslanian, C. (2018) Online college students 2018: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences.