Instructional Model

Our courses are hybrid distance courses that couple classroom interactive two-way videoconferencing (ITV) and a variety of web-based desktop technologies. Classes meet in a traditional classroom setting that has been modified for ITV through the use of technology. Faculty work closely with students locally and at the receiving campus. ITV equipment facilitates instruction in addition to travelling from on-campus sites. In the traditional classroom setting, facilitators hold regular office hours. The integration of technology helps ensure the success of our program.

The program operates the following:

1. CLP courses average over 80% retention from first year to second year, higher than the national average for these languages.
2. Students at the receive site do as well or better than their peers at the original site.
3. Students in our distance courses do as well or better than their peers at the original site.
4. CLP courses have more than doubled student enrollment over 250 students each semester and offering a minimum of 4 semesters of each language.
5. Collaborative Technologies bridging the gap between distance students offers many advantages:
   
   - Regular access to numerous native speakers from multiple locations and cultural expertise beyond that of a single instructor expands students' linguistic and cultural literacy.
   - Students build strong interpersonal communication skills (written and spoken) in the target language and are highly motivated to use them to learn more about their peers living in other locations.

Data from the program indicate the following:

1. CLP courses average over 80% retention from first year to second year, higher than the national average for these languages.
2. Students at the receive site do as well or better than their peers at the origination site.
3. Students in our distance courses are doing as well as students taking a comparable course in a traditional class setting.
4. CLP has more than doubled student enrollment over 250 students each semester.
5. Collaborative technologies bridging the gap between distance students offer many advantages:
   
   - Regular access to numerous native speakers from multiple locations and cultural expertise beyond that of a single instructor expands students' linguistic and cultural literacy.
   - Students build strong interpersonal communication skills (written and spoken) in the target language and are highly motivated to use them to learn more about their peers living in other locations.
Discover a World of Possibility

Are you prepared to...

• graduate knowing how to think critically and problem solve with business partners in a global marketplace?

• participate in emerging industries with foreign investors?

• unlock the keys to cultural communication?

• be globally literate in a worldwide economy?

• understand the increased diversity in your community?

• thrive in a diverse university environment – living and learning together?

• confirm your commitment to lifelong learning?

Advantages of Learning Another Language

• gain a better understanding of another culture in both social and business environments

• learn how to prepare for discussions that develop into mutually advantageous agreements

• learn to recognize cultural taboos at work in international situations and use cultural differences to mutual advantage

• learn to communicate diplomatically, using appropriate protocol and etiquette to avoid mistakes in negotiations that can be costly to business

• make good judgments and accurately gauge the tone of business and social communications

• develop personal confidence in business and social settings in our ever-growing global community

• learn to anticipate, understand, and respond to perplexing or unexpected behavior

• personalize a role for establishing and maintaining solid working relationships

• acquire additional marketable skills

Benefits of the Distance Learning Environment

• internationalizing education through the integration of foreign students in classes and related cultural events

• become familiar with synchronous and asynchronous communication tools used in both corporate and educational environments

• work collaboratively with students from other institutions

• videoconferencing expands the classroom and the diversity of the population within it

• communicative student-centered learning encourages interactions between students

• small classes with more individualized attention

• access to expertise of multiple native speakers

• facilitates fluent in the target language at each site

Collaborative Language Programs

The Collaborative Language Program (CLP), established in January of 1998, is designed to spread the wealth of language instruction through shared resources to learners on college and university campuses around the state. Its creation was based on three primary premises:

• There is a need for greater cultural awareness and linguistic expertise in a number of critical languages. Issues of diversity also need to be addressed.

• Distance technology is now pedagogically sound and functionally feasible to support collaborative language instruction.

• Creating collaborative programs is of great interest to all University of Wisconsin campuses.

Our long-term goal is to look at collaborative efforts to provide support for the teaching of all languages.