

## Findings of the PCC Winter 2009 Survey of Distance Learning Students (N=1,243)

- When asked the *most* important reason for enrolling in distance learning (DL) courses, 43.3% of DL students indicated a conflict with work. Not surprisingly, almost half of DL students did most of their work for their DL course during week day evenings.
- About 16% indicated as the *most* important reason for enrolling DL courses that distance learning was their preferred method of learning.
- Among DL students who needed help with a technical question, 58% used PCC's Blackboard Helpdesk, and slightly greater than 30% received help from a friend or other student. Among those who used the Blackboard Helpdesk, over three-quarters of DL students were either "Very Satisfied" or "Somewhat Satisfied".
- About one-third of DL students strongly agreed with the statement: "I would be interested in completing the entire coursework for an Associates or Bachelors degree on-line."
- About two-thirds of DL students either agreed or strongly agreed that PCC provides adequate students services on-line to meet the needs of DL students. DL students ranked Registration as the most important on-line service (40%), followed by the on-line schedule of classes (18.5%).
- Approximately one-third of DL students indicated interest in on-line tutoring and writing assistance. By contrast, only 20% indicated interest in on-line academic advising. ("Not Applicable" responses are excluded).
- 58.7% of DL students said they would "certainly" take a DL course in the future at PCC, and 25% indicated they would "probably" take such a course. However, a sizable minority (42%) of DL students indicated that they would still take their DL course if it were offered only as a traditional on-campus course.
- Slightly less than 30% said that their DL course was more difficult than a traditional on-campus course. About 55% said that they were equally difficult, while only 11% said that the DL course was less difficult.
- Almost 75% of DL students either agreed or strongly agreed that the instructor-student interaction was adequate for their needs. Among DL courses with on-line discussion groups, 60% agreed or strongly agreed that they were valuable.
- About 80% of DL students either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "I was satisfied with the educational value of the course."