WICHE Internet Course Exchange (WICHE ICE)
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Mission of WICHE ice

WICHE ICE creates opportunities for students to access high quality internet delivered courses and programs offered by accredited four-year and two-year institutions throughout the WICHE region.
Current WICHE ICE Member Institutions

- Bismarck State College
- Boise State University
- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- Idaho State University
- Lewis-Clark State College (ID)
- Montana State University
- Montana University System
- North Dakota University System Online
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Nevada Reno
- University of Utah
- University of Wyoming

Additional institutional and system memberships are pending
Growth in Online Learning

- Over 90 percent of public institutions offer online courses
- Most institutions are finding a large proportion of their online students are also enrolled on campus
- Access to postsecondary education is not evenly distributed across the West, online learning can help equalize access
Some other models in the U.S.

- Great Plains Alliance – 10 universities with similar missions in 10 states sharing online graduate programs
- Project SAIL (Specialty Asynchronous Industry Learning) – national collaboration of community colleges importing certificate programs from one another
- Western Governors University – competency based online degrees in teacher education, business, IT, and graduate level health programs
Summary of ICE Objectives

- Respond more quickly to workforce demands through sharing online courses and programs
- Organize institutional resources to create opportunities for students throughout the region
- Support quality of courses, effective student learning, assessment and continuous improvement
- Abide by accreditation standards and best practices
- Clearly designate essential student services, applicable policies and institutional responsibilities
Benefits for Students

- Access to a wider range of courses, academic programs and faculty expertise in a variety of disciplines
- Financial aid and credit transfer are seamless
- Improved degree completion and retention
- Access to advising and financial aid at their home institution
- Overcome geographical, financial and scheduling barriers to course enrollment
- Benefit from the convenience and flexibility of online course delivery
- Increase course and program offerings in rural areas
Benefits for higher education institutions

- Expanded course and program offerings
- Expedite students’ time to degree
- Achieve cost efficiencies by avoiding or sharing the cost of new course and program development
- Share faculty in hard to staff disciplines
- Keep low growth programs viable
- Review courses from member institutions for requirements before students take them
WICHE ICE can help improve time to degree

- **General course exchange:** A variety of undergraduate and graduate courses are offered in disciplines such as Math, Science, and English.

- Making these courses available to students can help them meet requirements in a timely manner, reducing time to degree.
Benefits for states and impact on workforce development

- Respond more quickly to workforce demands, especially those that arise quickly
- Collaborate on workforce issues of immediate concern, and address them through collaborative approaches
- Examples include nursing, allied health, secondary math and science teacher preparation and development, and rural social work education
WICHE ICE addresses workforce needs

- **Nursing**: Nursing Education Exchange (NEXus) in partnership with the Western Institute of Nursing
  - 4 universities share PhD level nursing courses
  - Eliminates need for schools of nursing to develop all doctoral level courses
  - Assists students with increased course options

- **Rural Social Work**: Western Consortium for Rural Social Work Education (6 institutions offering Graduate Certificate in Rural Social Work Practice)

- **Supply Chain Management**: Graduate certificate jointly delivered between Boise State University and the University of Alaska Anchorage
Additional areas of development to address workforce needs

- **Education:** Preparation and professional development for secondary science and mathematics
- **Engineering:** Graduate level courses and programs
- **Allied Health Professions:** Current potential exchanges include dental hygiene and health information technology
- **Public Health:** Master’s in Public Health online program sharing
WICHE ICE Financial Model

- Institutions and state systems pay a membership fee based on student enrollments ($2,000-$4,000 annually)
- A $20 per student, per course fee is assessed to support WICHE involvement
For more information:
http://www.wiche.edu/prosvcs/ice/

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