

**Comparing Faculty Time and Labor in Online versus On-campus First-Year Composition
Courses: A Study of the SUNY Community Colleges
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Abstract

This time log study, in the small sample size thus far, suggests that despite the conventional wisdom that teaching online is far more time consuming than teaching first-year composition (FYC) on campus, online does not necessarily take more time than teaching it on campus. While online FYC faculty do spend more time communicating with students and responding to student assignments, this is balanced out by on-campus faculty time in the classroom and in student conferences.

Summary

Participants used a stopwatch to track time spent teaching one online or one on-campus FYC course during three weeks of the semester. Participants tracked time into six labor categories: on-campus faculty tracked class time and conferences with students, and *both* on-campus and online faculty tracked time spent in communications with students, corrections/responses to assignments, course material development/revision, and class website maintenance.

Participants completed a cover sheet indicating employment status (full- or part-time), whether they were tracking time online or on-campus, total years experience teaching at the college level, total years experience teaching in their chosen modality, their class size minimum, total number of sections being taught by the participant, and total number of essay drafts to which the participant responded over the course of the semester.

Recommendations for Future Studies

This study is ongoing. In fall 2012, there were approximately (based on information available from college websites) 1,304 on-campus sections and 102 online sections of FYC throughout the 30 SUNY community colleges. Thus, nearly 300 participants would be needed to provide a 95% confidence level and a 5-point confidence interval; however, the fall 2012 number of completions offering usable data is 49. In spring 2014, I have 62 faculty currently engaging in the time log study and I hope to continue the study to increase the number of successful completions.