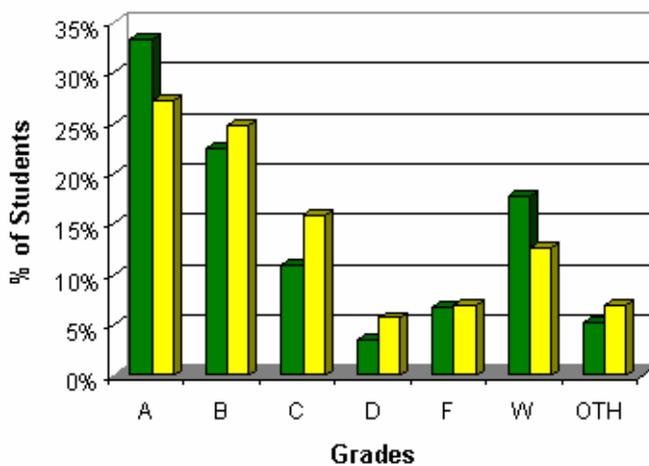


Comparison of Grade Distributions between Distance Education and Regular Courses.

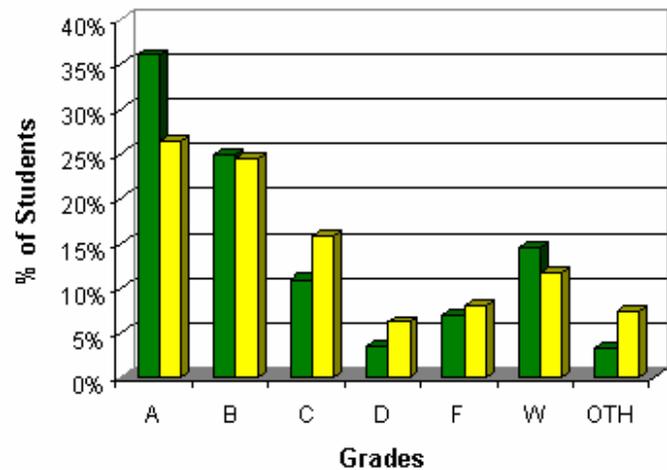
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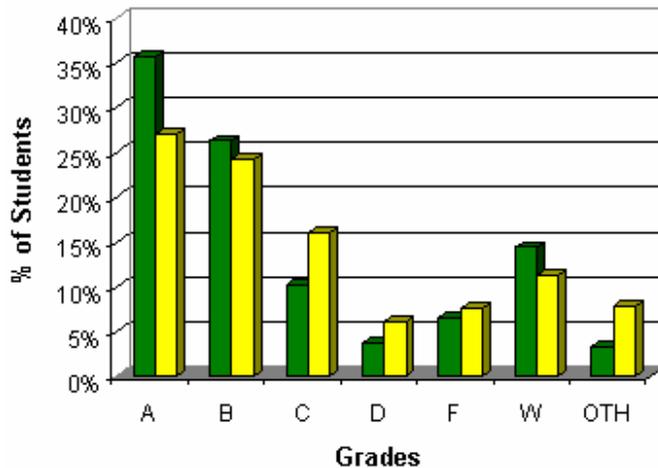
Grade Distribution in Fall 2001



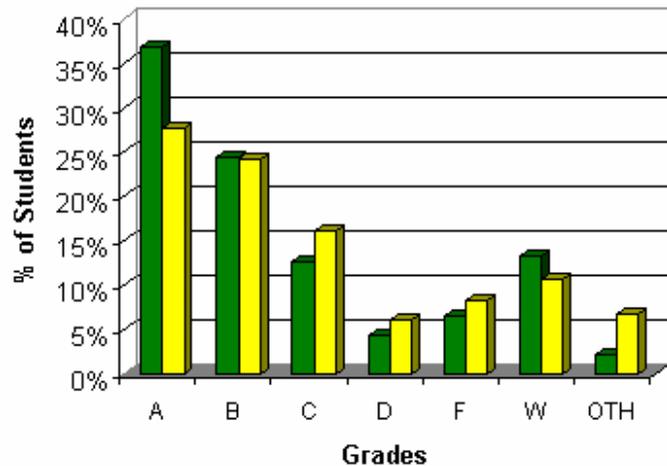
Grade Distribution in Fall 2002



Grade Distribution in Fall 2003



Grade Distribution in Fall 2004



■ Distance Education Courses ■ Regular Courses

Note: Distance Education Courses include 50% or higher internet courses, compressed video and public broadcast courses. Grades included in the other category are: AU, I, IP, NC, P and U.

- The graphs, indicate that students who finish the course, perform well in distance education courses. Consistently, a higher percentage of students have received, an **A** in distance education courses. The percent difference between students who received an **A** in distance education as opposed to regular courses ranged from a high of 9.56% in Fall 2002 to a low of 6.00% in Fall 2001. Except for Fall 2001, a slightly higher percentage of students have received a **B** in distance education courses. We also see that a higher percentage of students received a **C, D** or **F** in regular courses.
- The table below shows the comparison between average Cumulative GPA of students taking only distance education courses, both distance education and regular courses and those taking regular courses only. We can see that the average Cumulative GPA is higher in every case for students taking only distance education courses and those taking both distance education and regular courses. Although it appears those students who generally perform better academically have taken distance education courses, and we see a higher percentage of **A** and **B** grades in them, further research is required to come to any such conclusion.

Comparison of Average Cumulative GPA of Students taking only Distance Education courses, at least one Distance Education course and Students taking Regular Courses only.

Term	Average CUM GPA of Students taking Distance Education Courses only.	Average CUM GPA of Students taking both Distance Education and Regular Courses.	Average CUM GPA of Students taking Regular Courses only.
Fall 2001	2.930	2.548	2.533
Fall 2002	3.076	2.617	2.529
Fall 2003	2.963	2.658	2.587
Fall 2004	3.091	2.663	2.590

- The graphs also indicate that withdrawal rates are higher in distance education courses. This could be due to the following reasons:
 - Students may find it easier to be able to disengage from a non traditional class.
 - Many students may have not anticipated the unique challenges associated with non traditional forms of course delivery.
 - Distance education courses require a lot of discipline on the part of the student, studies show that students may procrastinate their course work and decide to withdraw when they feel burdened*.

* <http://www.studygs.net/distanceed.htm>