

On-Line Quality Education

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Definition of E-Learning

- ▶ From Wikipedia - “A Virtual learning environment (VLE) is a system that creates an environment designed to facilitate teachers’ management of education courses for their students, especially a system using computer hardware and software, which involves distance learning.
- ▶ In North America, a virtual learning environment is often referred to as “learning management system” (LMS)

History of E-learning

- ▶ A form of e-learning was actually introduced in 1999 at a computer based training program in Los Angeles.
- ▶ This would use new technologies which provided online, interactive participation through various means of internet or various other means of electronic media.
- ▶ This provided a way of developing competencies through the process of independent learning.

Early Educator



- ▶ Isaac Pitman started one of the first distance courses, shorthand, via correspondence in the 1840's from Great Britain.
- ▶ He sent assignments to his students via mail. Once these assignments were completed, they were mailed back to him for marking.

Modern Day Technology

- ▶ Moving forward to the 21st century, all you have to do is go to any coffee shop, street corner or a mall to see how connected people are to technology.
 - ▶ I personally do not know anyone that doesn't have a cell phone or computer. This includes pre-school children.
- ▶ Industry is connected to the internet and accessible around the world.
- ▶ Schools, companies and governments have information posted on their own websites.

Quality

- ▶ Quality is important in our every day lives. No one wants to settle for second best - who would!!
- ▶ Quality requirements have evolved over the years if not centuries.
- ▶ Post World War II, Japan looked to improve quality of their manufactured military goods for internal use to producing civilian goods for trade. This initiated a quality revolution in Japan which directly affected the United States.
- ▶ Qualities re-birth had begun.

On-line Quality Education



Quality Courses

- ▶ On-line education has grown since 2000.
- ▶ Institutions throughout the world offer quality courses.
- ▶ Quality training portals include Lean/Lean Six Sigma, problem solving, quality improvement, statistical tools to name a few.

Cost of Course?

▶ No-cost



▶ Financial cost



Type of Forum?

▶ Individual learning

- ❖ Usually able to complete this course at your own pace
- ❖ Maximum time limit given in which course must be completed
- ❖ Interaction with instructor only

▶ Classroom setting

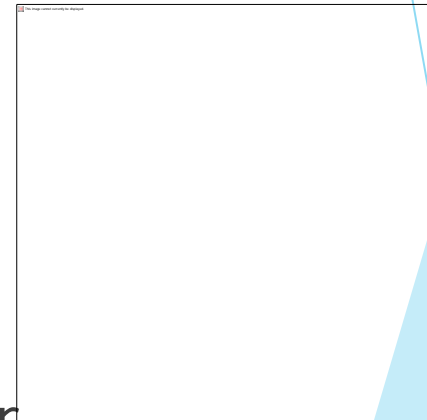
- ❖ Group of individuals that interact via group discussions, assignments, etc.
- ❖ Feedback provided by instructor as well as peer groups

Software

- ▶ Various types of software are used by Institutions, some of the more popular ones are:
 - ❖ Regpack (used by Goodwill, Stanford University, Habitat)
 - ❖ Absorb LMS
 - ❖ Moodle
 - ❖ Edmodo
 - ❖ Grovo
 - ❖ Litmos
 - ❖ Blackboard (UBC, Michener, MUN)
 - ❖ PowerVista RollCall - designed to serve adult learners

Getting Started

- ▶ Is this for interest or work related?
- ▶ Mandatory?
- ▶ Are you looking to obtain a degree or certificate?
- ▶ Recognized Institution?
- ▶ Group interest or individual?
- ▶ Time frame?
- ▶ Cost?
- ▶ Quality for Private or Public Sector



Decision Made

- ▶ Once you have determined the type of course you want to pursue, then you need to pick the one best suited for your lifestyle. Depending on your career aspirations as well as your personal life, the course should fit within these parameters.
- ▶ Search the internet for the course, consult your colleagues, read reviews from previous learners, whether these are posted or through individuals you know that have taken the course.

Institutions

- ▶ Here are just a few of On-line Quality Courses
 - ❖ American Society for Quality (ASQ) - up to 2yrs to complete
 - ❖ Athabasca University - each course 4 weeks, 8-12hr/wk
(discussions online)
 - ❖ Michener Institute, Toronto, Ont. - 20 month course - one course per semester, healthcare sector in clinical laboratories.
 - ❖ British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, B.C. - manufacturing and service industries or government.
 - ❖ University of British Columbia - Laboratory Quality Management

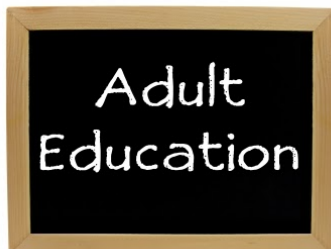
How do I know if e-learning is for me?

- ❖ Individual learning requires self-motivation, time and dedication.
- ❖ Interaction is usually only with the instructor as to feedback from assignments or quizzes.
- ❖ For those that want to complete the course as quickly as possible, this is probably the best option.



What about a group course?

- ❖ For those that enjoy doing group work or interacting with other students, this is a better option.
- ❖ This learning environment enables you to see other's point of view as well as learning from others.
- ❖ Within this concept, you may have participants which are from various countries that are on very different time zones.
- ❖ This can prove difficult when it comes to the group assignments but it is not insurmountable.
- ❖ It becomes much more of a co-operative environment.



How to get started?

- ▶ No matter which avenue you take for your on-line Quality course, it is important to keep up with the required readings and assignments.
- ▶ Choose a time when you are relatively alert so that you can absorb the information.
- ▶ Make sure you feel comfortable with the learning forum before you get started. This will make the process much easier to learn.

How to get started?

- ▶ Ask questions whether it be of the instructor or your fellow students. If you are lucky enough to have individuals from various levels of education, pick their brains and ask them about their experience.
- ▶ Remember, this is a learning forum for everyone. Don't be shy, be proactive, everyone will benefit from it.
- ▶ If you have a group assignment and no one seems to want to take the lead, just jump in and start the process. Sometimes you just need one idea to get the ball rolling.

In Summary

- ▶ Quality is here to stay!! It is in all aspects of our lives, at work, at home, or on any playing field. Learning about Quality can be exciting, interesting and definitely informative.
- ▶ On-line Quality courses are diverse and variable. Choose the one that provides the required information that you are looking for to meet your career needs.
- ▶ Contact the learning institute if you need more clarification on the course material, learning forum or any other information. They want you to enroll in the course from them so they will try their best to sell their "product"

Questions?

