

Question:

I have received pressure to convert my “bricks-and-mortar” course delivery and material to an online course. I have some concerns and would like a second opinion other than my supervisor’s opinion.

Answer:

Source: page 2, http://www.opseu.org/caat/caat_ac/divexnews/CAAT-A%20Div%20Ex_Mar%2007_eng_d.pdf

“Online Learning” from CAAT(A) DIVisional EXecutive (DIVEX) Newsletter: March 2012

Like so many new ideas, online learning was seen as the shiny toy that was going to revolutionize student learning. However, after a decade since its early beginnings, we’re hearing very different stories from our students. Prior to taking an online course, students will often express their delight at the prospect: no set scheduled classes; being able to work at the material when one feels like it; studying in the comfort of one’s pajamas, etc.

However, a majority of these same students tell a very different story after completing an online course. At one college, three studies taken over five years and involving over 1000 students who had completed at least one online course returned the same results: given the choice, 75% of these students would prefer to take their courses face-to-face. TELUQ a branch of L ‘Université du Québec à Montréal, a forerunner in the delivery of online courses, with over 25 years of experience, has a graduation rate of less than 10% from its online programs. A recent report states that about half of the students who sign up for a course do not complete it.

Perhaps the shiny new toy has begun to tarnish.