regardless of distance and time according to their needs and requirements through online forums and other electronic means. According to Kruse (2004), students on e-courses are more confident than others since they can learn and complete their assignments at ease in terms of time constraints and needs. This eliminates stress and increases their satisfaction.

The following table summarizes the main advantages of e-learning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globally consistent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible to experts – regardless of location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trackable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient anytime scheduling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the E-learning class when using MOODLE (abbreviation for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) or OCC (Online Course Container), the instructor’s roles have changed from being “a sage on the stage” to becoming “a guide on the side”. While instructors have to re-design their courses, they have to re-visit their expected learning outcomes, course materials and their delivery methods. It’s often the case that in an online course, more interactive approaches are used such as project-based learning, problem-solving learning and community-based learning. Students have the opportunity to access information, videos and audios published locally and globally.

Finally, technology is a tool and not a goal in itself, and we should give ourselves the chance to experience the value of e-learning.

To attend any e-learning workshop schedule, please feel free to contact the CELT at celt@najah.edu. Interested faculty could contact Musab (An-Najah MOODLE administrator at: moodle@najah.edu, to follow up on MOODLE course design.

Source: IBM Training Recommendations, 2010
Award eligibility conditions:

1. The proposed course should one of the BA or MA programs compulsory or elective courses.

2. The course should be developed during the second semester, 2012.

3. An action plan including the time line of activities should also be submitted.

Submission guidelines and deadline:

To Fill out the proposal application form please visiting the following link:

http://celt.najah.edu/node/add/award

Application form should be completed no later than 202/2012

Why go for e-learning?

Saida Affouneh, PhD

Over the past decade, Information and technology revolution highly affected higher education theories and practices. The term practice is known as e-learning, and is considered to be one of the significant innovations in teaching. Thus, e-learning is regarded as one of the main educational paradigm shifts that changed the teaching and learning processes. Sener (2010) claims that all higher education students will experience a type of e-learning in their study in the upcoming five years.

E-learning has many different definitions and types and there is no clear single definition available, but the common theme among all these definitions is that it is “the delivery of a learning, training or education program by electronic means.” E-learning involves the use of a computer or of electronic devices in some way or another to provide training, educational or learning materials (Derek Stockley:2003). Therefore, e-learning is a general term used to refer to computer-enhanced learning. There are different models of e-learning where students and instructors meet synchronously on campus or asynchronously from home.

Recently, there is an ongoing debate on whether e-learning is rewarding or not. Therefore, e-learning Pros and Cons need to be considered in order to highlight its possible impact. Despite all its challenges, e-learning reduces cost and time. Learners have the option to choose the time, learning materials and the place to learn. Other main advantages of e-learning are: flexibility, convenience and the ability to work at any place and any time (Online source http://www.about-elearning.com/e-learning-advantages-and-disadvantages.html on Feb, 1, 2012). Other advantages of e-learning include the ability of students to participate in rich discussions with their colleagues.

Announcement for symposium proposals on innovations in teaching and learning

An-Najah Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence invited faculty from all disciplines to submit their complete applications for the implementation of new approaches to teaching, learning and course assessment. CELT provides fund for team applications that would run during the course of the Spring Semester, beginning February 2012 till May 2012.

Course Development Awards

Thu, 2012-01-26

The center for excellence in learning and teaching announces the availability of course development awards to support faculty members who wish to incorporate e-learning, community based learning, critical thinking and problem based learning into their courses. Any other innovative course development approaches to improve the learning and teaching environment are also eligible to apply for the awards.

Award eligibility conditions:

Teaching practices of faculty members in a student-centered setting.

Dana Adas

Becoming an engaged teaching faculty member in a student-centered approach to education is part of the ongoing commitment to come up with the best of teaching practices by being responsive to the needs of the students through a constructive alignment process pertaining to course design, teaching methods, and assessment tools. Involving faculty at An-Najah National University in a student-centered approach to teaching and learning entails that they should:

1. Create learner-centered course outlines,

2. Be clear about their own teaching goals,

3. Develop course ILOs that meet the course general objectives and the university general goals,

4. Use student-centered pedagogy,

5. Implement active learning techniques, critical thinking, problem based learning, e-learning, and assessment tools to engage students in the learning process,

6. Encourage students’ engagement in learning and self-assessment,

7. Assess students’ level of achievement using effective assessment tools (rubrics, peer assessment, portfolios, short answer essay, multiple choice questions, etc.)