

The Open Education

Experience of the Arab Open University–Lebanon

Definition

- ▶ Although there is no agreed upon comprehensive definition of open learning
- ▶ We will use UNESCO's Definition:

“ Open learning is an umbrella term for any scheme of education or training that seeks systematically to remove barriers to learning, whether they are concerned with age, time, place or space.”

E-learning is classified into 3 categories:

1. Correspondence courses no attendance
2. Face to face with some e-learning courses
3. Face to face with some e-learning tools as supplementary material. “Blended Learning”

AOU E-learning System

- ▶ Student attendance is mandatory
- ▶ Daily office hours
- ▶ All courses include CD-ROMs
- ▶ Electronic Support through moodle
 - Availability of course material, calendars, etc.
 - Online forums and chat rooms

Concerns related to e-learning

- ▶ Learners with low motivation or bad study habits may fall behind
- ▶ Students may feel isolated from the instructor and classmates
- ▶ Slow Internet connections or older computers may make accessing course materials frustrating
- ▶ Managing computer files and online learning software can sometimes seem complex for students with beginner-level computer skills
- ▶ Hands-on or lab work is difficult to simulate in a virtual classroom

Using e-learning requires:

- ▶ Identifying needs and resources
- ▶ Improved quality of teaching and learning
- ▶ Greater student accessibility
- ▶ Commitment from faculty and administration for the use of technology for teaching.

Thank you