

2008 Summer Institute Post-Institute Evaluation

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July 24, 2008

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2008 Summer Institute: Post-Institute Evaluation, Executive Summary

As part of our evaluation process for the *Tenth Annual Summer Institute on Teaching and Learning with Technology*, we sought participant feedback post-institute, in addition to the daily participant feedback we received as part of our more informal, formative evaluation process. On June 2, 2008, Summer Institute participants (n=39) were asked to complete a survey about their overall impressions of the Summer Institute and their perceptions on what they learned during the Institute. The last evaluation was submitted on June 30, 2008, which was the day it was taken offline. Twenty-seven of the thirty-nine participants responded to the survey, for a response rate of approximately 69%. Of the respondents, twenty-three were faculty members, three were support staff attending the Summer Institute with a faculty member, and one was DELTA staff attending as a guest.

Of the respondents, sixteen were from the morning cohort and eleven from the afternoon cohort. All respondents indicated that the quality of the Summer Institute was “good” or better, with the majority of respondents, 81%, indicating the Summer Institute was “excellent.” This is consistent with previous feedback, as the Summer Institute has always been a highly rated event over the ten years that we have run this program. Additionally, all respondents (100%) indicated they would recommend the Summer Institute to a colleague, another statistic consistent with previous years.

Two important changes were recommended for future Summer Institutes. The first was a consideration for two levels of classes; one introductory class that provides an overview of teaching and learning with technology, and another track that assumes faculty have the basics and thus can go into greater depth with the material. Second, a curriculum realignment of theory and practice was recommended to ensure more hands-on time. Overall, participants best liked the balance of teaching, learning and research, the technology to which they were introduced, and the guest speakers. Also, the half-day format was good for maintaining their other work responsibilities during the week. When asked to rate their own abilities, 89% of participants who responded to the post-institute survey indicated “very much so” that the Summer Institute gave them a sense of the resources available to help create technology-enhanced course materials and 52% of the respondents said “very much so” that the Summer Institute increased their ability to envision how they can use technology to support their own face-to-face class. Fifty-two percent plan to create a completely online/distance education course in the next year, 4% indicated they will create a hybrid course in the next year, and 30% plan to utilize web-supplemented instructional materials in their face-to-face courses. Eight percent were interested in exploring different mixes of instruction as part of thinking about Large Course Redesign,

and 4% of respondents were unsure of what their next step would be in using the knowledge that they gained through the Summer Institute.

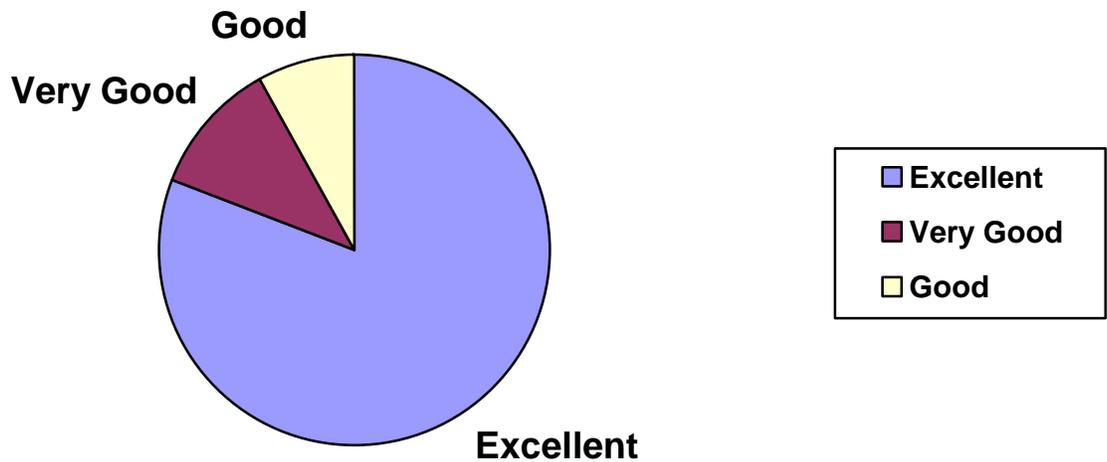
The professionalism, helpfulness, technical knowledge, and accessibility of our staff were primarily ranked as “very good” or “excellent” by all respondents. Respondents were impressed with our organization, in particular often stating that the best overall thing about the Summer Institute was the staff; for example: “The people were the best! They were very helpful and well organized. I have gone to work with some of the DELTA individuals after the SI and they are fantastic, very friendly and helpful.” Comments from participants often reveal how valuable this program is to them, and this year was no exception. Following are some selected participant comments from Summer Institute 2008:

- *I loved the instructor's! They were all great and so dedicated to helping all of us. There was a very positive climate for learning and sharing ideas. I also loved the hints and contacts that I gained throughout the week.*
- *It's a great overview, very well organized. I felt that every minute of every morning was well spent.*
- *Being in a support role I feel that this is an amazing opportunity for the faculty to take advantage of! Just to see the unlimited resources that is available to them and how it could make their job so much easier.*
- *This opened my eyes to the broad range of technology use and the flexibility of technology to engage students.*
- *Although I was familiar with a lot of the tools presented, I gained a lot of insight about how to use them in different ways and the format of the sessions was great.*
- *It was a great introduction to tools that can support good pedagogy whether one is looking to develop an on line course or just add hybrid elements to a course that is largely face-to-face..*

Quality Indicators

Participants were asked to rate the overall quality of the Summer Institute using a 1-5 Likert scale. The majority (81%) of respondents rated the overall quality of the institute as “excellent,” with 11% rating it as “very good,” and 8% rating it as “good.” In the ten years that DELTA has hosted the Summer Institute, it has never been ranked below “good,” suggesting that the program is a very useful service to our participants.

Overall Quality of Summer Institute



Recommendation of Summer Institute to Others

Participants were also asked if they would recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty interested in learning more about teaching and learning with technology. All respondents indicated that they would recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty, and in an open-response question, were given the opportunity to explain their response.

Would you recommend the Summer Institute to other faculty interested in learning more about teaching and learning with technology? (n=27)	
Yes	27
No	0

Category (why recommend?)	Comments
Staff/ Meet Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Can make connections with Delta staff and with other instructors dealing with the same issues.</i> ▪ <i>Instructors were enthusiastic, information was useful</i>
Informative/ Efficient Overview of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Opened my eyes to the broad range of technology use and the flexibility of technology to engage students.</i> ▪ <i>High quality instruction; this is essential to improving the quality of teaching and learning in higher education, now and for the future!</i> ▪ <i>Although I was familiar with a lot of the tools presented, I gained a lot of insight about how to use them in different ways and the format of the sessions was great.</i> ▪ <i>I liked seeing how everything fit together and getting an overview of the tools available to us. I also very much enjoyed meeting some of the faculty and interacting with them. I liked the fast pace and I really learned a lot.</i> ▪ <i>Good consolidation of information and review/introduction to available resources</i> ▪ <i>I learned a great deal about WHY and HOW to use several different technologies.</i> ▪ <i>It was a great introduction to tools that can support good pedagogy whether one is looking to develop an on line course or just add hybrid elements to a course that is largely face-to-face.</i> ▪ <i>It had something for everyone and ALL who teach would benefit from the experience.</i> ▪ <i>Great introduction to a wide range of teaching tools and techniques.</i> ▪ <i>I learned about many helpful technologies and also enjoyed the collegiality of the institute</i> ▪ <i>I think it is a good experience for learning some of the software available to us to use</i>
Motivational/ Attitudinal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>It helped to alleviate many fears about technology being too hard.</i> ▪ <i>It's a great overview, very well organized. I felt that every minute of every morning was well spent.</i> ▪ <i>Being in a support role I feel that this is an amazing opportunity for the faculty to take advantage of! Just to see the unlimited resources that is available to them and how it could make their job so much easier.</i> ▪ <i>The material that was introduced was both inspiring and enlightening.</i> ▪ <i>You learn the tricks of the trade to teaching with technology.</i> ▪ <i>I knew nothing going in to this and learned so much that I have begun with more knowledge to put together the DE course I am going to teach in the spring of 09. I have much more confidence now thanks to the summer institute.</i>

Most Important Changes to Make

In an effort to continually improve the Summer Institute experience for faculty, we always seek to identify the most important changes we can make for the next institute to be an even more useful, positive experience for the participants. These responses fell thematically into the following categories:

Category (what needs changing?)	Comment
Curriculum – Theory vs. Hands-on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I think a bit less theory about teaching is needed. Most of us are teachers and we read current research about learning. I'd have liked a bit more time on actual computer instruction (Dreamweaver) and a <u>bit less on the theoretical explanations.</u></i> • <i>I'd like more time to experiment and explore the various applications other than what's available on Friday. I know that there isn't a whole lot of time to do that -- however <u>I think you could easily cut out some of the general theory discussions...</u> also, some discussion of WolfWare would be nice (at least mention it)</i> • <i>I think the institute was well organized and the people were just fantastic...however, <u>it would have been really great to be able to have more time to work with the technology and less time listening about it.</u> I realize from an instructional view this is rather difficult when you are managing multiple skill levels. I would strongly suggest that maybe there were multiple break out sessions based on level; no experience, minimal experience, some experience, experienced.</i> • <i>My biggest recommendation would be to present less material, but have more time for participants to "play with" the software.</i>
Curriculum – Choice/Beginner vs. Advanced Tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If possible, it would be nice to have more breakout sessions in which participants can choose concurrent sessions--very similar to the format during the last day. Also, it would be nice to have some sessions of "open lab time" where participants can bring in works in progress and get direct feedback with the Institute instructors.</i> • <i>Offer break out (alternate)sessions on days that Vista is introduced. Many people were currently using Vista so, this was a bit redundant. A better use of time would have been to at least offer two sessions (beginner and advanced) concurrently.</i> • <i>Considering you have the staff and the space, would it make more sense to have two levels of classes? One introductory class that provides an overview, and another that can go more into the material. Some of the sessions were crammed full of information without much time to delve deeper. Some of the participants had cursory knowledge and were ready for that deeper exploration.</i> • <i>Add an advanced level of mini-courses, go beyond an introduction to some materials.</i> • <i>Since there seemed to be plenty of staff, I would like to see two levels of classes offered; one introductory and the other more in depth. I think having the two levels will allow DELTA to meet the varied levels of need.</i> • <i>I do realize how difficult it must be to organize this effort however another option would be to possibly have levels within the SI, for example SI-beginning level; SI-advanced. Also, regardless of level I think it would be really fantastic if we could bring in our own materials to work on. Again, logistically this could be difficult however we could for example have brought in material to make our own banner or work on a .jpg file we brought in. This would make it a bit more interesting and I think participants would feel good</i>

	<p><i>about leaving with a product even if it is minimal. Additionally, I found the book very basic and honestly quite boring. Now this may not be the case for individuals at a more beginning level...</i></p>
Curriculum - Pacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>It went very fast. If I were a novice, I would have been lost for a great deal of the sessions. You might do a pre-survey to gauge where people are and offer a full day of the institute for novice (no use of vista) and 1/2 day for intermediate (some use of vista).</i> ▪ <i>I can't think of anything at present except that at times I felt we moved too quickly - there is a lot I will have to go back and (re)learn in order to use. I also realize that I may be in the minority on that. Among the participants, there was a wide range of skills with the different tools.</i> ▪ <i>There was a lot of information given at a fast pace, but then I am a beginner. Maybe more lab time on various sessions would help, not waiting until Friday. I don't know though how you would do this, because getting the information and going home and digesting it is probably in the end the only way.</i> ▪ <i>Slow down on presentation of the various technologies. There was a lot to take in, and if one got behind, it was difficult to catch up with the class. I also would have liked time after each session to work individually with what had been taught in class. Doing so would help 'cement' the learning. I found at the end of the week that my recall of the various classes was lessened as there was so much to take in and very little time to actually apply it. The program content was so good, that I wanted more time to work with it.</i> ▪ <i>Reduce the number of workshops on Wednesday. Too many applications were presented too quickly. Consider having two tracks (one morning, one afternoon) for people who are at different levels of experience with technology and tools.</i> ▪ <i>Spend a little more time on the topics covered on Wednesday (hands on demos of various programs) so participating faculty can have a bit more practice time and the presentations don't have to be as rushed. They were excellent, just a bit rushed to make the time constraints.</i>
Curriculum - General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I didn't get much out of the VISTA pre-workshop. The quizzes weren't enough to get me to thoroughly read. Maybe instead, open up discussion questions about the readings so we can get more involved (and interact more w/one another).</i>
Work with buddies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tie in the on-line piece of the Summer Institute more closely and frequently with the in-class sessions.</i> • <i>One suggestion that I have is to have a buddy wrap up maybe that last day and see how it differs from the first time we met and see if there is any other questions that there might be.</i> • <i>opt. Part II--an opportunity to work with our coach or buddy to develop a strategy for moving forward.</i>
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I can't think of a thing except sometimes the temperature in the room where we gathered initially was cold during the elective sessions. But that's such a small thing, it almost sounds silly to mention. But I did hear several people (women) say they were freezing.</i>

Liked Best Overall

Additionally, participants were asked what they liked best overall about the Summer Institute. In making the institute a better experience, we want to keep the elements intact that participants find appealing. These responses fell thematically into the following categories:

Category (Liked Best)	Comments
Instruction/Format/ Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The balance of teaching/learning research, technology and guest speakers. Also, half day format was good for maintaining work responsibilities during the week.</i> ▪ <i>The lunchtime demonstrations by faculty who have used technology successfully in their classes. It helps to see GOOD examples of what's possible.</i> ▪ <i>The Wednesday hands on session and the Friday workshops.</i> ▪ <i>Exploring the classroom-specific programs like Vista</i> ▪ <i>The Vista workshop.</i> ▪ <i>The introduction to all of the different technology products that were available.</i> ▪ <i>The second life presentation. The introduction to Dreamweaver. The Course Genie software.</i> ▪ <i>Wednesday session...hands on. The learning styles and intro sessions were also very good. The Friday break out sessions were very well done also. Thus, I liked the whole thing the best.</i> ▪ <i>I appreciated that sessions were geared toward providing "hands-on" experience. I also appreciated the linkage with sign-ups for the full-length course sessions later in the summer. The seminar schedules were well planned to allow for faculty who were teaching in either Summer Session I or II.</i> ▪ <i>All of the workshops were great as well as the daily lunch.</i> ▪ <i>The wide variety of topics covered.</i> ▪ <i>The hands-on experience</i> ▪ <i>The exposure to all kinds of the latest technology in general was superlative.</i> ▪ <i>Seeing materials that were useful that I did not know existed.</i>
Camaraderie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The classes and being able to interact with the instructors and other faculty members</i> ▪ <i>Connecting with people who can help me develop skill and confidence with the tools.</i> ▪ <i>I liked meeting the staff and seeing the faces behind the names that I have been seeing for 10 years. I also liked the quality of the staff and the courses. As a support person, it really gave me a lift and opened my eyes to how hard the staff and faculty work to be top-notch educators.</i> ▪ <i>I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about what other people are doing in their classes. It was very helpful to go through SI with the same group of people and to get to know that group.</i> ▪ <i>Learning what others have done. Very inspiring.</i>

DELTA Staff (and Staffing during the Week)

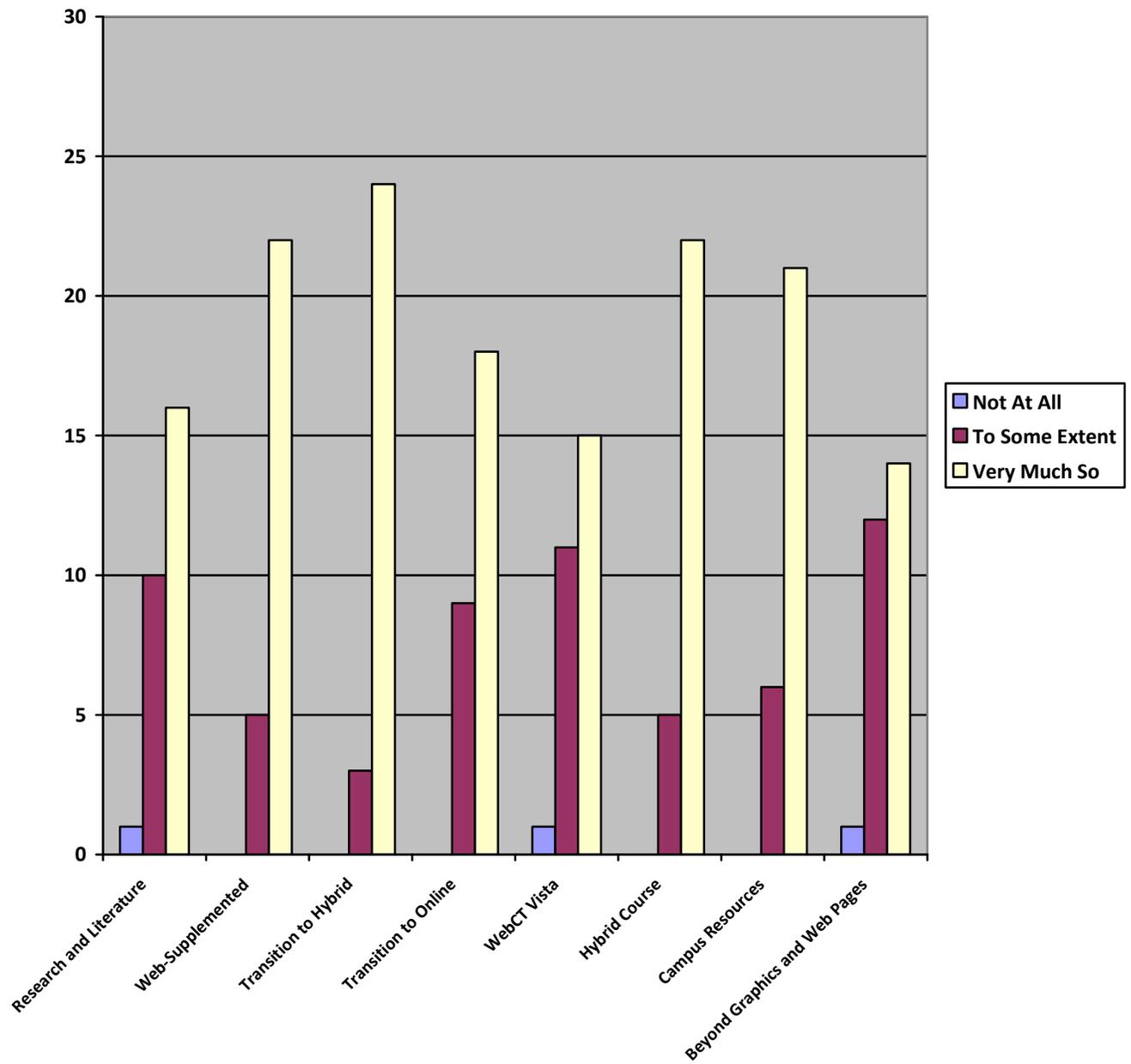
- *I learned a lot with experts teaching in a non-threatening way!*
- *The great instructors and the introduction to Vista.*
- *I loved the instructor's! They were all great and so dedicated to helping all of us. There was a very positive climate for learning and sharing ideas. I also loved the hints and contacts that I gained throughout the week.*
- *The people were the best! They were very helpful and well organized. I have gone to work with some of the DELTA individuals after the SI and they are fantastic, very friendly and helpful.*
- *The staff were knowledgeable about the material and were sincerely committed to helping the participants.*
- *Staff was great - I felt that I got a good introduction to many tools but I will still need follow up workshops or one-to-one assistance with implementing many of the tools. And I know where to go for help!*

Participant Perception of an Increase in Skills/Abilities

Participants were asked “to what extent did the Summer Institute increase your ability to do the following kinds of tasks related to getting a course completely online or partially online?” The institute appeared to increase perceived participant abilities in key areas “to some extent” or in many cases “very much so.”

	Not At All	To Some Extent	Very Much So
The Summer Institute increased my knowledge about research and literature related to teaching and learning with technology	1	10	16
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision how I can use technology to support my face-to-face class.	0	5	22
The Summer Institute increased my ability to begin planning and scoping the transition of a traditional course to a hybrid course	0	3	24
The Summer Institute increased my ability to begin planning and scoping the transition of a traditional course to an online course	0	9	18
The Summer Institute increased my ability to use Blackboard Vista to begin delivering materials online	1	11	15
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision how I can use technology to create a hybrid class.	0	5	22
The Summer Institute increased my ability to identify and describe campus resources for the development and support of teaching and learning with technology.	0	6	21
The Summer Institute increased my ability to envision media use beyond graphics and text-based web pages	1	12	14

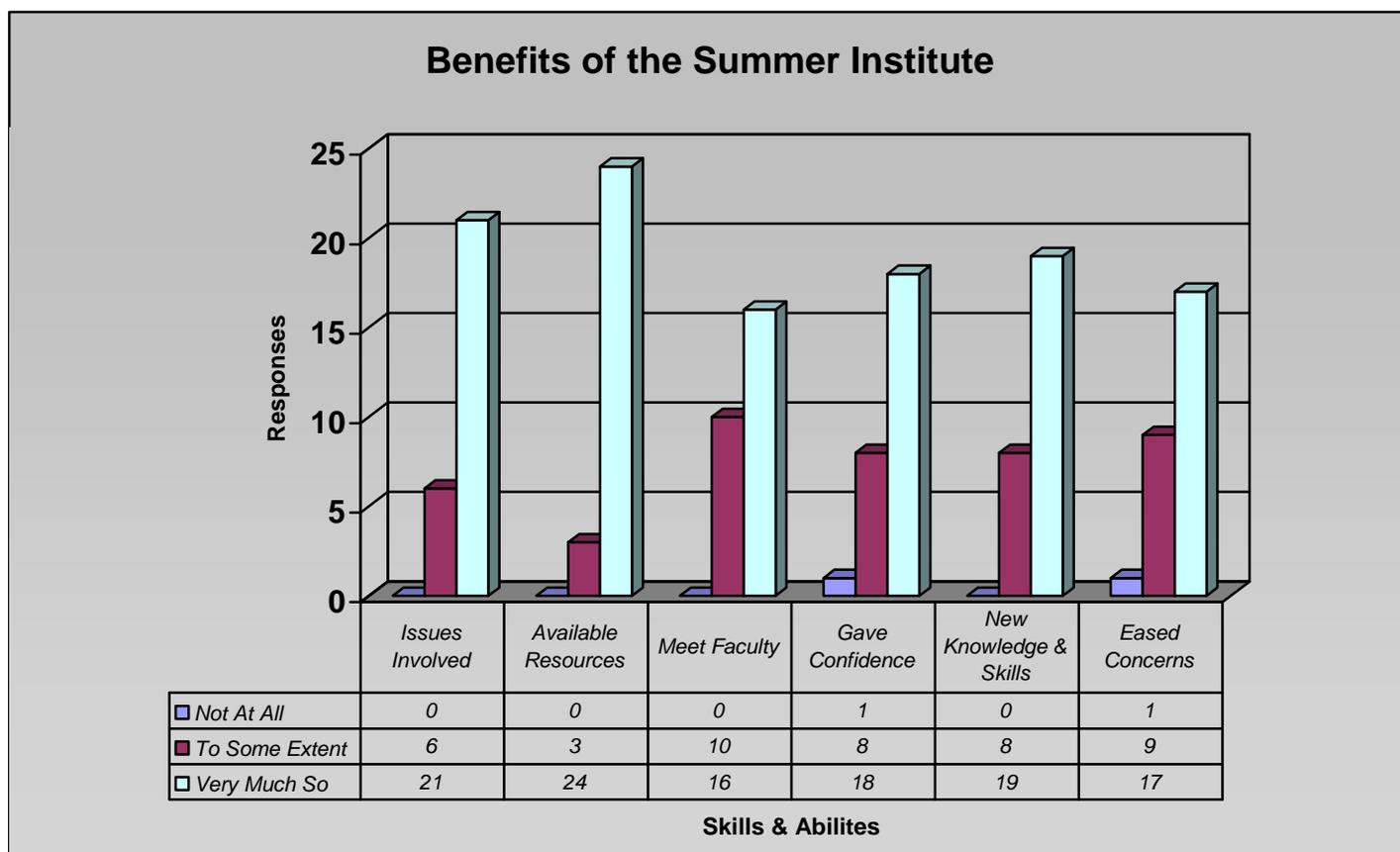
Increase in Skills and Abilities Due to Summer Institute



Participant Perception of Benefits of the Summer Institute

Participants were also asked to rate to what extent the Summer Institute provided them with certain benefits that we hoped were met during the Summer Institute. From their perspective, the institute benefited them in these key areas, “to some extent” or “very much so” for the majority of the questions asked.

	Not At All	To Some Extent	Very Much So
The Summer Institute gave me a sense of issues involved in creating technology-enhanced course materials. (27)	0	6	21
The Summer Institute gave me a sense of the resources available to help you create technology-enhanced course materials. (27)	0	3	24
The Summer Institute gave me the opportunity to meet other faculty members with similar interests. (26)	0	10	16
The Summer Institute gave me the confidence to begin developing technology-enhanced course materials. (27)	1	8	18
The Summer Institute gave me new knowledge and skills that will help me begin developing technology-enhanced course materials. (27)	0	8	19
The Summer Institute eased some of my concerns about teaching and learning with technology. (27)	1	9	17

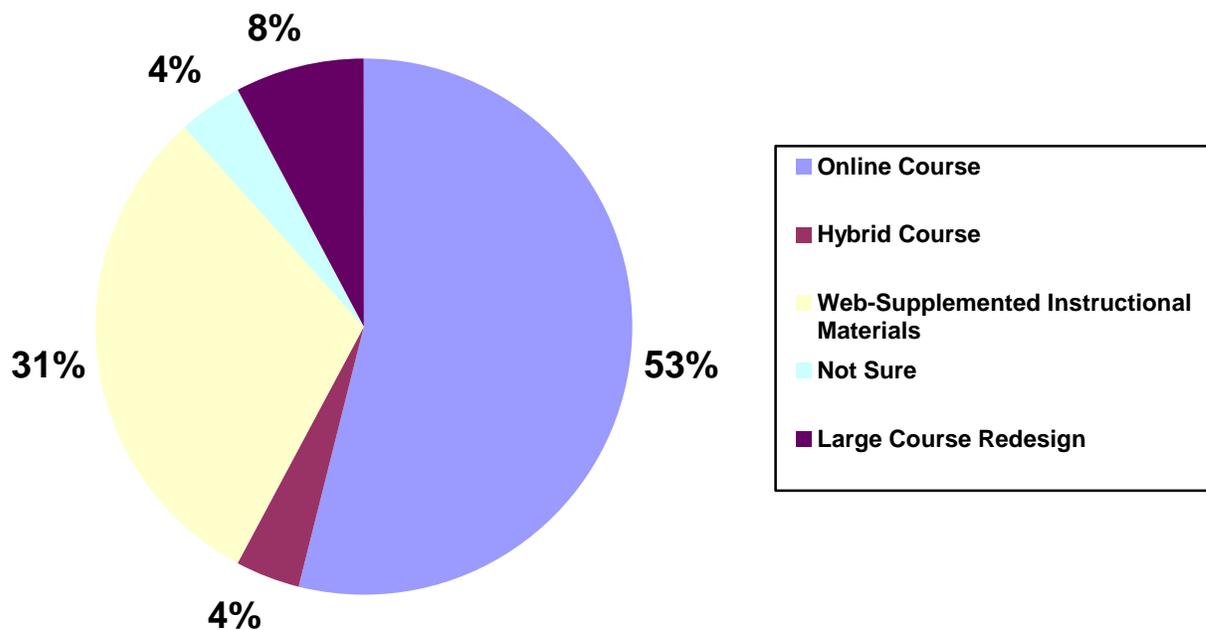


Current Plan for Technology-Enhanced Course Development (Post-Summer Institute)

Participants were asked to describe their current plan for technology enhanced course development following the Summer Institute. Of the 26 responses, participants plan to do the following:

- (14) I plan to use what I learn to create a **completely online/distance education course** in the next year.
- (1) I plan to use what I learn to create a **"hybrid"** course in the next year, with an increased reliance on the web that will result in fewer class meetings.
- (8) I plan to use what I learn to create and utilize **web-supplemented** instructional materials (such as a syllabus, class notes, discussion forum, etc.) to use in my face-to-face course in the next year.
- (2) I am interested in exploring different mixes of instruction (**web-supplemented, hybrid, DE**) as part of thinking about Large Course Redesign
- (1) I'm not sure what I might do at this point.

Post-Summer Institute Course Development Plans



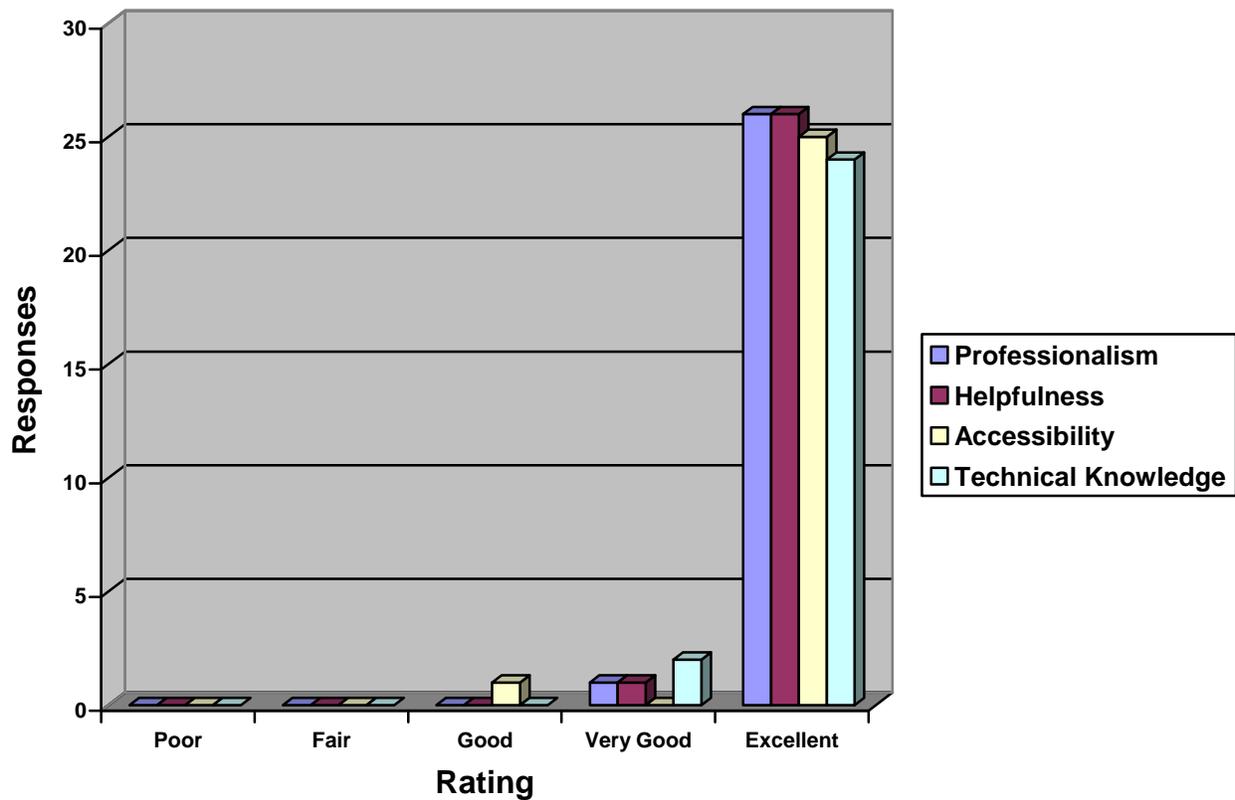
Staff Rating

Participants were also asked to provide feedback about the DELTA staff who participated in the Summer Institute, rating them on a Likert scale, on their professionalism, helpfulness, accessibility and technical knowledge.

Staff Ratings

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Professionalism (27)	0	0	0	1	26
Helpfulness (27)	0	0	0	1	26
Accessibility (26)	0	0	1	0	25
Technical Knowledge (26)	0	0	0	2	24

Staff Rating



Additional Ideas for Training and Possible Topics that could be Offered for Faculty in Terms of Workshops, Seminars and Resources:

- *Perhaps more hands-on learning time with Blackboard Vista (or Moodle).*
- *More on analysis and course design*
- *More on web 2.0 would be very helpful with respect to actual applications in the classroom. I would like to see more examples of how other instructors are using web 2.0 applications in their classrooms.*
- *Some type of project management training.*
- *More time introducing alternative activities such as second life and how to make effective use of NCSU wikipedia*
- *CHASS-specific/theory-based classroom discussions online (i.e. not just how to test knowledge but enhance discussion)*
- *Staffed and open learning labs at the alternate times of the cohorts. For example, a morning cohort would have the opportunity to come back to a learning lab in the afternoon to begin working on*
- *I loved the idea of "project" time that was available on Friday however I really wanted to attend sessions during that time so I wasn't able to properly utilize this time. I would love to have other times made available to work on projects. It would be fantastic if most of the week was set up like Friday. Then you would be able to schedule attendance for the topics you were most interested in and fit in some "project" time.*
- *Two part courses with the first session devoted to instruction and the second session to application. I'd like to see more Photoshop classes.*
- *There is a difference between webspace where course materials are accessed by students, and webspace where communication with and between students can happen. (eg. vista vs. wolfware vs. webassign vs....) I don't really feel that I have a basis for evaluating which is best for my case. I know that only I can make that decision, and it will require trying each and speaking with my "buddies", but having a strategy for making those decisions seemed to be absent.*

Additional Overall Comments about Summer Institute:

- *It was a wonderful learning experience - thank you so much.*
- *Thanks very much. You do a great job! Everyone did a great job!*
- *I had a wonderful time and would love to do it again!*
- *Perhaps a 2-track class system--one for beginners and one for more experienced and those who are teaching distance learning*
- *Overall, it was a very rewarding experience. Thanks to everyone!*
- *I am already helping my director with building a site for her class. Although she is barely supportive of the idea, I hope to make her see that it could make her job a lot easier and have many benefits for the students as well.*
- *Excellent experience! Great job! thanks for everything*
- *Thank you for all your time and effort!*
- *What a great program. I am so motivated to begin creating and developing learning opportunities in the Fall. I truly believe my "on ground" class will be so impressed with the changes that I will have made for them to learn.*
- *I want to thank you again for including me and my doctoral student in the Institute this summer. We will continue to work together on developing DE delivery of all or parts of our courses throughout the coming academic year.*
- *I would love to see a program that provided SI graduates the opportunity to meet together and share project ideas and progress. **I think an "alumni" program** would be a great addition and would encourage the utilization of material learned throughout the SI.*
- *Excellent workshop. Very helpful*
- *The last question under #6 assumes the person had apprehension. I think there is a difference between recognizing the need to increase awareness and specific skills with new tools and being apprehensive. In my case, I recognized the need to be more informed about available tools and to increase my skill set. Perhaps this is what you wanted to measure. If so, my answer is "very much so." (The bane of data collection - what are we measuring and how is the respondent interpreting the question.)*
- *I thought the presentations were very well done. I attended some of the DELTA workshops during the year, but review was good for me.*