

On-line Predeparture Orientation Program
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<https://salsa.nmsu.edu/> *studyabroad.nmsu.edu*

Why we converted to an on-line pre-departure orientation program for outbound students?

- a. increased volume of students with orientation mandatory (in 9 years from 80 to 350+)
- b. limited staff to conduct orientation sessions, and unavailability due to travel demands
- c. large amount of material to cover consistently
- d. concern about student's not mastering the materials presented in group sessions
- e. lack of specificity of information about country/site, with no tie in to returned student evaluations
- f. difficult logistics related to arranging meeting times and finding meeting space
- g. inadequate record keeping of attendance

Is it the only way?

No, but it works for our situation. If we had more staff (or knowledgeable faculty to help out) we would still do some face-to-face sessions. For exchange programs I am lobbying for a for credit course.

Development of the course

- a. at first, one catchall course (not very good, but we learned from our mistakes)
- b. now, multiple courses designed according to type of program
- c. courses are established to be accessible year round
- d. control is maintained by setting deadlines for taking of quizzes
- e. students have to be enrolled in appropriate course by office staff (which we do when student has shown strong intent to study abroad)
- f. use our data base program to track compliance--permanent records
- g. emphasis on procedures, health and safety, country specific issues tied into our on-line evaluation program

Structure of typical course

WebCT course shows up on the student's mynmsu page

Emphasis on simplicity, with strong tie into study abroad web site: <http://studyabroad.nmsu.edu>

Control with quizzes and required level of demonstrated competency; quizzes modified annually; Quiz 1 automatically graded, Quiz 2 graded by instructor

Option for individual meeting with instructor if having problems passing the quizzes; one essay question allows for unanswered questions instructor can reply to.

Home Page contains Read me First, Course Guide, Assignments, Quizzes (and evaluations for distance education options), Check Grades button, and e-mail button.

On-Screen demonstration of features

Questions