

BLEND E-LEARNING AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

UZOUKWU CHRISTIE

B.Ed SPECIAL EDUCATION (UNI JOS)

Blended learning refers to a mixing of different learning environments, it gives learners and teachers a potential environment to learn and teach more effectively, it can adequately combine face-to-face instruction with computer-mediated instruction.

Whether a course will be face-to-face interaction, an online course or a blended course depends on

1. the nature of the Handicap

2. location of the students

3. resources available

4. the nature of course being offered

A student needs special education when such student is not able to gain knowledge or skill especially in an academic setting or school without special assistance, this could be as a result of a particular handicapping condition, which could be either inherited, by accident, malformation or malfunctioning of a particular organ or organs of the body.

The Special Education student eagerly awaits modern educational approaches, as their cognitive skills weaknesses can be improved to make them functioning students. They can become even highly capable learners, and soon. Now, we can move forward without hesitation.

For years, the typical solution was in-classroom or pull out tutorial assistance of daily assignments. Teachers, not knowing how to implement advanced instructional strategies, remained instructing within this inefficient model. In many cases, teachers feared additional, cumbersome work in learning and implementing new methodologies.

Years of often poor and limited instructional content and video production on CDs-DVDs, hindered streamlined, high impact education. High tech-quality instruction will now make a difference for both the teacher and the student to achieve quality education

Now, the internet booms with educational innovation, paving its way into the emerging high-tech classroom. Teachers will no longer have to learn new methodologies, because Blended e-Learning will do it for them. Interactivity between the student and online lab will be key. Various forms of student engagement practice exist to interface with virtual learning.

A recent article (January 2011) by Horn and Staker of Innosight Institute, reviewed the current six available classroom Blended e-Learning models to relieve the teacher by offering new insights, and recharge all students(including the special student) to higher academic

performance levels: <http://www.innosightinstitute.org/media-room/publications/education-publications/the-rise-of-k-12-blended-learning/>