

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF ONLINE LEARNING: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Traditional classroom enrollment continues to decline from 14.4 million in 2010 to 4.1 million by 2015 (Nagel, 2011). The prediction of post-secondary students taking classes online will increase by 25 million by 2015 (Nagel, 2011). The purpose of the research was to determine if international students also choose forms of distant learning for the same reasons that U.S. students would choose any form of distant learning. The authors designed and developed a survey instrument similar to Perrault (2005) study in order to gather responses from 686 U.S. graduate students enrolled in six graduate programs in a private state-wide university. Additionally, 274 international students at various colleges from graduate and undergraduate programs were surveyed. The students surveyed were Icelandic, Caribbean, South American (classified Latin), Serbian, and Chinese. More than 50% of U.S. students' taking online courses have positive feedback about online courses and programs which and their feedback has progressively changed in a 10 year period. As the research of students' perception of online degrees has changed in the U.S. there is also a favorable support of online programs from students in different countries. The international perspective of Latin, Chinese, and Icelandic students was even more favorable than those of the U.S. students. However the population of Serbian students reported less favorable feedback about online programs. Overall, out of the 6 populations studied, 5 recommend online classes and that is 83% of the populations surveyed favor online education.

Keywords: *student, online, learning*