The Office for Distributed and Distance Learning (ODDL) was established in July 1999 to support faculty in their use of technologically mediated innovations in teaching and learning to serve students both on and off campus. The University’s previous online-learning activities had been supported by the Learning Systems Institute. ODDL’s support takes the form of projects to develop degree programs and of workshops to help individual faculty members develop Web-based components for their residential classes and fully online courses for either on- or off-campus delivery. ODDL provides ongoing assistance to faculty as they develop and teach their courses through its Digital Media Production Group (DMPG), Electronic Campus Services, and Instructional Development Services (IDS).

ODDL supports the University’s mission to extend education statewide by offering courses and degree programs at many off-campus sites around the state. ODDL has served students at a distance by using current technologies to deliver University degree programs beyond the main campus. ODDL has supported the development of degree-completion programs that include majors in computer science, information studies, software engineering, nursing, and interdisciplinary social science; additional upper-division majors are in development for the 2+2 program. Through these programs, students with an AA from a Florida community college or its equivalent, as assessed by Florida State University Admissions staff, and who have met the Liberal Studies requirement, can complete their bachelor’s degrees online.

Florida State University currently has eleven master’s programs that are offered entirely (or mostly) online or via other technology: Adult Education (major in Human Resource Development), Business Administration, Communication Disorders, Criminology (major in Criminal Justice Studies), Educational Leadership, Information Studies, Instructional Systems (major in Open and Distance Learning), Mathematics Education, Nursing, Risk Management & Insurance, and Social Work.

Distance students are able to do everything online necessary to matriculate at FSU, from application and registration, to checking grades and getting transcripts. In addition, ODDL, with the cooperation of many offices on campus including the Office of Telecommunications, the Registrar’s Office, and the Controller’s Office, has developed an online orientation process for distance students. This technology support is coupled with human support in the form of course mentors in undergraduate programs, and academic coordinators, who work closely with distance students and academic departments to resolve academic, administrative, and technical problems they may encounter.

In addition to serving the off-campus population, ODDL also has been charged with providing an online teaching-and-learning environment for residential students. This support is managed through the Electronic Campus Services group of ODDL, which also provides faculty workshops in the use of the course management tools Web-MC and Blackboard (Bb).

The Office for Distributed and Distance Learning is located in Suite C3500 University Center.

Source: The Office for Distributed & Distance Learning
Online Resource: The Office for Distributed & Distance Learning’s website can be accessed online at http://online.fsu.edu