Competency-Based Education
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU) & the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U)

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CBE not new...
CBE Today
Professional certifications
Medicine, Law, Teachers, Pilots, Information Technology, etc.
Competency-Based Education flips time and learning

Everyone learns at different rates; individuals learn different material at different rates.

Traditional education: Time is constant/learning variable
Flipped time/mastery relationship

Students progress at own pace and can accelerate based on previous experiences
Proof of Concept
Western Governors University

~45,000 students – over 30,000 degrees awarded
Price is less than $6,000 a year.
The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) is a national exam that measures general education skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication.

In 2012–2013, 155 institutions participated in the CLA.
- WGU’s value-added score, measuring incremental learning, was higher than 89% of participating institutions.
- WGU seniors scored higher than seniors from 80% of participating institutions.
NSSE is a national survey that measures student engagement. In 2013, the NSSE polled over 350,000 students from 613 institutions. Senior-level students rated WGU significantly higher than other institutions in the following key areas:

- Quality of interactions with faculty—9% higher
- Academic support—9% higher
- Challenging coursework—14% higher
- Hours spent studying—14% higher
- Acquisition of job-related knowledge and skills—9% higher
- Would attend the same institution again—28% higher
- Rating of entire educational experience—19% higher
EMPLOYER SATISFACTION

(2013 Survey of 200 Employers by Harris Interactive)

- 99% said that WGU graduates meet or exceed expectations; 96% said WGU graduates exceed expectations.
- 97% rated WGU graduates’ job performance as good as or better than the job performance of other graduates; 57% rated WGU graduates better than other graduates.
- 98% said they would hire another WGU graduate.
- 100% said that their WGU graduates were prepared for their jobs; 88% said they were very well or extremely well prepared.
Types of CBE

Course-level – requires proficiency be reached

Program re-design:

WGU working with 11 community colleges (FL, OH, IN, TX, WA) to adapt information technology programs to CBE

U.S. Dept of Labor and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation support
Sally Johnstone & Louis Soares
Principles for Developing Competency-Based Education Programs
Change Magazine, April 2014
“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change”