

Master of Distance Education

August 10, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Norm Friesen has taught two courses for the Centre for Distance Education (CDE) in its Master of Distance Education program. The first course he taught for us (Fall 2003) was the Introduction to Distance Education (MDDE 601). The second course he taught for us (Spring 2004) was the Introduction to Technology in Distance Education (MDDE 610). He taught in our Masters program while he was employed on a full-time basis at the Research Centre at Athabasca University. In response to his request to provide potential employers with a formal evaluation of his teaching, I have summarized his student's feedback on his teaching below. The feedback was gathered on a voluntary basis through an anonymous Web-based form that asked about the quality of both the course content as developed by CDE faculty, and of Norm's delivery of this content.

The four questions listed below, show the evaluation returns for both MDDE 601 and MDDE 610 and represent the questions and responses (of the thirteen students who volunteered answers) as they pertain specifically to Norm's delivery and teaching:

"Please rate the following components of the course:"

1. "Feedback from the instructor regarding my understanding and progress in the course:"
 - "Excellent:" chosen by 5 students
 - "Good:" chosen by 6 students
 - "Fair:" chosen by 1 student
 - "Poor:" chosen by 1 student
 - Average = 4.15 (where 5 is excellent)
2. "Promptness of the instructor's responses to my questions and concerns:"
 - "Excellent:" chosen by 8 students
 - "Good:" chosen by 4 students
 - "No opinion:" chosen by 1 student
 - Average = 4.67 (where 5 is excellent)
3. "Thoroughness of the instructor's responses to questions and concerns:"
 - "Excellent:" chosen by 9 students
 - "Good:" chosen by 2 students
 - "Poor:" chosen by 1 student
 - "No opinion:" chosen by 1 student
 - Average = 4.58 (where 5 is excellent)

4. Other comments:

Glenda and Corinna are terrifically helpful in a support role and Norm was a very patient and helpful course leader.

The instructor of this course was very flexible and patient regarding assignments deadlines. He was also open about our ideas and welcoming of any new propositions or topics of research.

As the above result suggest, Norm has performed well as an instructor in our Master program and I would certainly rehire him and would not hesitate to recommend others to hire him also.

Sincerely,



Bob Spencer, PhD
Director, Centre for Distance Education
Program Director, Master of Distance Education
Athabasca University