

Learning Online Environment for an Extra Curricular Course in Clinical Biochemistry

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Integration between digital technology and telecommunication resources present multiple possibilities regarding access to education, among them, the long distance learning process. The purpose of this work is to offer a long distance extra curricular course for health care students and professionals, intending to contribute with their continued education. The online course (180h) was available on the webpage www.ead.ufpe.biz in a LMS platform (Learning Management System), in which 35 students from all over Brazil and 07 tutors (UFPE) subscribed. The subscribers had access to: web classrooms (12) with presentations/notes (62); exercises (15); forums (27); technical dictionaries (119); scientific articles (70); theses e dissertations (04); web search links (50); email (30); clipboards (28); chats (01); exams (01). The number of accesses to the online content by the students (17.795) and the tutors (3.842) showed great participation on the online environment. Online classrooms were greatly accessed (3.335) and the forum demonstrated has been the best interaction tool (5.188). The asynchronous communication (email and forum) seemed more efficient than the synchronous (chat) one. Everyone performed the proposed activities between 07/25/08 and 02/05/09. The platform used was efficient in the online long distance extra curricular course in clinical biochemistry, with satisfactory didactic planning and selection of the contents which were properly related to the professional competences to be acquired by the subscribers.

Keywords: Continued education, long distance learning, online environment.