


Summary of Pertinent Results

(Data of the Original Study in 2004 – Study is Ongoing)

Communication & Collaboration

- Computer mediated communication (CMC) lacks important elements of communication related to **social contact**
- Online discussions are more **task oriented** than face-to-face discussions
- CMC can promote **reflective thinking**
- CMC can improve **communication between students and instructor**
- Face-to-face contact can enhance **community building**

 **Blended learning** is the best way of taking advantage of both face-to-face communication and CMC

The Role of Faculty in Online Environments

Pertinent Aspects:

- Social and pedagogical presence of the instructor
- Accessibility, responsiveness, and being organized in terms of communicating with students
- Clear definition of goals and tasks
- Faculty is expected to be more promptly available than in traditional environments

Flexibility & Self-Directed Learning

- Flexibility is one of the most frequently mentioned advantages of online learning
- Students need to have well-developed time-management practices and skills of self-directed learning
- Yet, students' self-regulated learning skills still seem to be poorly developed