Perceptions of Online Courses at MTSU: A Comparison of Faculty & Student Perceptions

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Key Findings

Students
• Faculty underestimate the degree to which students feel disconnected in online courses.
• Faculty and students both perceive the need for self-discipline and motivation when taking online courses, but students are more likely to think they have to teach themselves.
• Faculty are less likely to say that students take online courses because students believe they are easier.

Faculty
• Neither students nor faculty believe online courses are taught by weaker teachers. Faculty more adamantly disagree that online courses are taught by weaker teachers.
• Students and faculty do not agree on the amount of time it takes to teach an online course.
• Students and faculty disagree about the availability of faculty who teach online courses.

Courses
• Students and faculty agree in general that online courses are not as good as traditional courses.
• Students believe that professors are not as necessary a component in online courses; Faculty strongly disagree.
• Faculty strongly disagree that online courses are easier than traditional courses.

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