

Determining Bible College Gathering Model

The model of gathering together for instruction should be determined prior to initiating a school, learning center or Bible College. There are several models presently employed by affiliates utilizing the HOJ-ICBS Curriculum Package. In some cases, multiple models may be utilized simultaneously. Education should be fluid and flexible to accommodate the changing needs, opportunities, technologies and available staff. Multi-modal education is considered the most desirable for maximum performance.

1. **Full-time Residential**: Students live upon or near the campus or learning site. They commit them-selves to regular classroom structure and practicum activities. This option tends to be the most expensive to sustain due primarily to the need to provide dedicated living facilities. Laundry and personal hygiene issues are increased, especially if it is designated to be a 'co-ed student body.' Residential models allow for the greatest development of 'community' among students.
2. **Part-time Residential**: Students live near the teaching facility, maintaining their own residences. They attend classes on an on-going regular basis, commuting to the learning facility. Depending upon the duration of the program, classes may be conducted in the evenings, during the day 2-3 days per week, or some combination of day and evening classes, accommodating both the students and available staff.
3. **Short-Term Intensives**: When the target students are of mature age, employed or presently engaged in full time ministerial responsibilities, regularly scheduled intensive gatherings might be considered. Gathering for 4-6 days for 8-10 hours of instruction each day, every 6-8 weeks – (6-8 weeks off, then a 1 week intensive). The intensive would include instruction, testing and review of course work which had been assigned during the 'break-time.' The gathering and instruction location might be moved to various locations over the course of the program.
4. **Correspondence**: This option allows students to maintain their present living situations, employment and ministry opportunities while participating in the curriculum. In areas that facilitate internet, or have the ability to utilize audio and video curriculum enhancements, these options might be included in the curriculum. This model is the least expensive to maintain but presents a number of disadvantages as well. It is recommended that regularly scheduled, semi-annual gatherings be offered to the students, perhaps a 2-3-day meeting, 2 or 3 times a year. If the extent of the geographical distance of the student body is extensive, (national or multinational) then such a gathering may be better operated on a regional basis. There is often a greater need for 'office personnel' with this model to administer the mailing and receipt of course materials.

5. **On-Line Distance Learning**: In certain locations, where access to the internet is available, the utilization of '*On-Line*' education may be considered an advantage. This may prove especially advantageous when utilizing foreign quest.
6. **Core and Spokes**: Utilizing a '*core administrative team*' to facilitate the '*business*' aspects of the college, with the educational '*learning centers*' located in various communities throughout a city or area/region. This advances the number of students without duplicating the administrative expenses. Classes may be conducted in various venues. There may be '*resident teachers*' at each site and possibly '*traveling teachers*' who revolve between the sites, sharing a particular topic, or area of expertise or interest. This manner of '*Team Teaching*' approach may have many benefits in heavily populated urban settings. This may also be blended with the '*On-line*' instruction [producing a multiplication factor with participants.

Each of the models mentioned above, or some combination, should be considered by the affiliate administration to achieve their desired goals within the financial and physical limitations present.

There is no one model which meets all the criteria and needs of a single location, and those items listed above should not limit the creativity of prospective administrations to be inventive in their design of a 'gathering model' that suits your prospective target group of students.

The location of gathering may be a spare room at an existing Church, or in the living room of a residence, a rented office space or in an open field.

It is good to be flexible in consideration of the long-term goals and considerations of the school.

The ultimate goal is to produce disciple making disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.