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**Abstract**

As technology changes what higher education is and how it is delivered, it is critical to learn from existing case studies and research about the strengths and weaknesses of this delivery approach. This article reviews research published in the United States and case studies of Internet-based degree programmes to gain a better understanding of the impact of IT on student equity and overall standards of quality. Based on this review of prior experience, several policy recommendations are offered. These recommendations suggest that governmental strategies related to on-line education should be limited in scope and promote two key goals: (i) equal opportunity for educationally disadvantaged populations, and (ii) standards of quality that are based on proven models of success. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)