Abstract
The phenomenon of abandonment in the students of superior education is recurrent in actual modalities and nonfactual and, according to some authors, in the remote modality it is associated with certain peculiar characteristics of this one. In order to analyze this phenomenon in the superior education at a distance, happened in two programs in period 1999-2003, two exploratory investigations in 2005 and 2006 were made adopting a methodology strategy of three phases: a) bibliographical and documentary investigation; b) work of field; c) application of a methodology model of generation and evaluation of alternatives. Some exploration results show that certain institutional characteristics, tutorial achievement and student's profiles correlate with dropout on distance education.

Keywords
Dropout, distance education, higher education.