SECTION 9
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# DISTANCE LEARNING

WVU Parkersburg offers college-credit courses through several instructional methods, including online, alternative delivery and blended learning. These courses are equivalent to on-campus sections of the same course in terms of outcomes, competencies, content, credit and transferability.

Students participating in these courses may use all WVU Parkersburg on-campus services as well as the web-based services on the WVU Parkersburg website. WVU Parkersburg provides each enrolled student with an official e-mail account, which should be checked every day.

Online and alternative delivery courses are primarily text-based and effective reading and writing skills are critical for successful course completion. Students enrolled in online and alternative delivery courses should carefully read information provided by faculty and closely review course syllabi for additional instructions on communicating throughout the course. Online courses can also be time intensive, and varying keyboard skill rates can impact the amount of time students spend completing course work.

It is recommended that students carefully evaluate their readiness and abilities in these areas before selecting distance learning courses. Typically, successful distance learners are:

- Self-motivated and willing to accept responsibility for their own learning.
- Self-disciplined, able to budget their time effectively and willing to stick to deadlines.
- Willing to take the initiative and contact their instructor when they have questions or concerns regarding the course.
- Comfortable with technology, especially web-based and Internet technologies.
- Aware that the flexibility offered by an online course does not mean that the course will be easy.

To assist students in determining their readiness for distance learning courses, additional resources are available at **www.wvup.edu/online**.

**Distance Learning Delivery Modes at WVU Parkersburg**
Students should be advised that any course at WVU Parkersburg may require use of a computer, computer labs, email, the Internet, or other digital resources and support software, and these requirements are not necessarily in the course schedule. The primary types of distance learning courses offered are blended, alternative delivery and fully online.

| Type of Course | Description |
|---|---|
| Blended | Uses a combination of web-based technology and face-to-face meetings; online course activity complements class sessions and may reduce the number of required class meetings. |
| Alternative Delivery System (ADS) | May include electronic delivery for up to 80% of the course content.  Instructors may require students to attend onsite or synchronous class sessions and/or take onsite examinations.  Typically no more than five class meetings may be required during a semester. |
| Online | Uses remote electronic delivery for 100% of the course content.  No onsite or synchronous class sessions may be required during a semester.  Related activities (including proctored examinations and library research) may be required. |

**Technology Requirements**
All students registering for an online course are responsible for providing their own access to a computer with an Internet connection and any other hardware and software necessary to complete course requirements. Students registering for an ADS course may need a computer with Internet access and software necessary for course requirements if there is an electronic component. General requirements can be found at **www.wvup.edu/online** and specific course requirements will be listed in the course schedule or syllabus.  Students are encouraged to email the professor listed in the course schedule for specific hardware and software requirements before registering for an ADS or online course to ensure readiness.

**Accessibility**

WVU Parkersburg is committed to creating an accessible academic community. For students with documented disabilities, the college will ensure that equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to and benefit from academic programs at WVU at Parkersburg.  Information for students requesting disability-related accommodations is available at:  **http://www.wvup.edu/current-students/services/disability-services/**

**Resources for Distance Learning Courses**
**Library Services**

A complete list of resources for Off Campus Access can be found at www.wvup.edu/current-students/library. The following are a few of the Library Services available at a distance:

- Remotely accessible web-based resources for student research, including articles, eBooks and streaming video.
- Research guides and tutorials specific to WVU Parkersburg collections.
- Librarian selected websites that support the college curriculum.
- Reference instruction by email.

To review all the services available at a distance, visit:  **www.wvup.edu/current-students/library**

**Student Services**
WVU Parkersburg offers a wide range of online services for students:

- Applications for Admission and Financial Aid
- New Student Orientation Materials
- Orientation to Online Learning
- Course Registration
- Financial Planning and Education
- Tutoring and Student Success
- Career and Counseling Services
- Technical Support.

To review all the services available at a distance, visit:  **www.wvup.edu/online**