



<p>This information is provided to help students clarify the <b>difference between Distance Education (DE) and online courses</b>. Online learning is closer in nature to face-to-face classes offered at Okanagan College; professor and students share the responsibility for learning and direction. In contrast, Distance Education courses are a great option for those students working full-time or having time/access constraints that limit their ability to engage in either face-to-face or online courses. The following provides more details regarding Distance Education vs online, class-based hybrid offerings.</p>	
<p><b>Distance Education Delivery (Self-Directed)</b></p>	<p><b>Online Course Delivery (Class-based – Hybrid learning)</b></p>
<p>Summer session courses for Distance Education run for 14 weeks (May 11 – Aug 15) plus final exam period.</p>	<p>Online summer session courses are condensed and run for 6-7 weeks:            Session 1: May &amp; June            Session 2: July &amp; August</p>
<p>Computer based. Access to a dependable computer, laptop or device is required. Reliable access to Internet required. Laptop/device with camera and microphone necessary for participation in courses. <i>(Students may also wish to have noise cancelling headphones or a headphone/microphone combination.)</i> These are the same for both self-directed and class based.</p>	
<p>Mainly self-directed (<b>asynchronous</b>) delivery. The expectation is that students engage in learning under their own direction. This calls for students to have strong self-direction, time management, and self-motivation competencies. Tutors are available to offer clarification, answer questions and related for support. Tutors do not provide direct instruction on the content.</p>	<p><b>Class-based – Hybrid learning has some aspects of being self-directed (asynchronous) and attending class-based instruction via Collaborate (synchronous).</b> Learning is both student and professor/instructor directed, with professors/instructors providing instruction during the regularly scheduled class time’ supported by designated professor/instructor online office hours.</p>
<p>The focus in a DE delivery model is on the individual learner with very few, if any, assignments completed with peers; the majority of learning and assignment work is self-directed and completed on an individual basis. Skills using video and audio content may be required as well as computer access for and skills in using Moodle and Microsoft Suite will be utilized.</p>	<p>Participation in class-based hybrid learning with peers and professor/instructor is expected. Strong communication skills using video and audio content will be required as various channels and platforms such as Blackboard Collaborate, Moodle and Microsoft Suite will be utilized. The more you engage, the greater the connections you will have with the learning, your classmates, and your professor/instructor.</p>



<p>Scheduled time online is not required, making DE ideal for those needing a flexible learning schedule; however, submission deadlines for assignments and class activities still apply.</p>	<p>In-class, hybrid learning requires students to be present online during the regularly scheduled class time.</p>
<p>The College uses Moodle to manage the course content and learning materials for DE.</p>	<p>The College uses Moodle to manage the course content and learning materials. Additional activities such as lecture delivery via video conferencing/posted videos/voice over PowerPoint/live chats/discussion forums using such platforms as Blackboard Collaborate may be used.</p>
<p>It is important to note that in both delivery formats, digital literacy and netiquette is expected. For all platforms that are new to you, support will be available to help familiarize you with the tools.</p>	
<p><b>Because no face-to-face presence is required for either format, both delivery methods come with the added benefit of engaging in learning from any location, provided that you have the required Internet and computer access.</b></p>	