



Distance Education versus Online Course Delivery

<p>This information is provided to help students clarify the difference between Distance Education (DE) and Online Courses. Online learning is closer in nature to face-to-face classes offered at Okanagan College. It is hybrid type learning where the professor and students share the responsibility for learning and direction. In contrast, DE courses are self-directed and 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 DE vs Online learning, Class-based hybrid offerings.</p>	
<p>Distance Education Delivery (Self-Directed)</p>	<p>Online Course Delivery (Class based – Hybrid learning)</p>
<p>Summer session courses for DE 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 & June Session 2: July & 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></p>	
<p>Mainly self-directed (asynchronous) 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 oversee the DE sessions, not instructors, and are available to offer clarification and answer questions for support. Tutors do not provide direct instruction on the content.</p>	<p>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. There are some aspects of being self-directed (asynchronous) with this method, such as attending class-based instruction via Collaborate (synchronous).</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 Office.</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 the student engages, the greater the connections the student will have with the learning, classmates, and the professor/instructor.</p>



Distance Education versus Online Course Delivery

<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>Students are required 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, support will be available to help familiarize students with the tools.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	