

SECTION 7

DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance learning courses are especially suited to reach busy people who wish to increase their knowledge and skills without giving up their jobs, losing income or interfering with family responsibilities. These courses are equivalent to on-campus sections of the same course in terms of outcomes, competencies, content, credit and transferability. The various forms of communication and instructional technologies utilized allow and encourage students to participate in discussions with faculty and classmates. WVU Parkersburg offers online and hybrid courses for distance learners.

Online Courses

All of the course content is delivered online. No face-to-face class sessions are required during a semester, however proctored exams arranged locally, library research, or other activities may be required. Typically, the course orientation, assignments, presentations, learning activities, and interactive quizzes and tests are online. Instructors use e-mail, webpages and course management tools to communicate with students.

Hybrid Courses

A hybrid course combines both face-to-face classroom instruction and online Internet-based learning. Instructors may require students to attend on-site or synchronous class sessions and/or take on-site examinations. Hybrid courses require students to have access to a computer to watch videos of lectures, track assignments and progress, interact with professors and peers, and review other supporting materials, such as PowerPoint presentations or scholarly articles.

Online and hybrid courses are primarily text-based and effective reading and writing skills are critical for successful course completion. 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. Additional resources are available at www.wvup.edu/online to assist students in determining their readiness for distance learning courses.

Technology Requirements

Students should be advised that all courses at WVU Parkersburg may require the use of a computer, email, the Internet, or other digital resources and support software.

All students registering for an online or hybrid 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.

General technical 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 a hybrid 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 Parkersburg is available. Information for students requesting disability-related accommodations can be found at www.wvup.edu/disabilityservices.

Library Services

A complete list of resources for off-campus access can be found at www.wvup.edu/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/library.

Student Services

Students participating in online and hybrid 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.

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