



Distance Education Student Newsletter Spring 2010

Welcome to Blinn College Distance Education

Distance Education (DE) courses provide flexibility and convenience to students. Many students today have family and job obligations that interfere with their educational objectives. Distance Education courses provide an opportunity for students to meet their outside and their educational goals.

Internet/Online courses allow students to work within a virtual classroom environment, interacting with their instructor and fellow classmates using the tools within the virtual classroom. These courses are identified with a section of N (GOVT 2305-N3).

Blended courses typically meet once a week at the time indicated on your schedule. Other interaction will take place in an online classroom. Students must attend class and participate in the online environment. These courses are identified with a section of B (HIST 1301-B4).

Interactive Video courses meet according to the time indicated on the schedule. The instructor will be on one campus and teach students at the other campus (i.e., remote sites). These courses are identified with a section of V (ENGL 1301-V1).

Supplemental courses are traditional courses that use the virtual classroom as an enhancement. This may include lecture notes, presentations, discussion board, and email. The instructor may use it as little or as much as he/she would like. Not all courses use eCampus, so ask your instructor if he/she uses it.

How do I find out more information

Before signing up for any Distance Education course, you should visit the DE web site at www.blinn.edu/disted/ and click on Students. This web site will introduce you to Distance Education and help you assess your decision to take a DE course.

For more information on each type of course, visit the sites below:

Internet/Online Courses: www.blinn.edu/disted/internet/

Blended Courses: www.blinn.edu/disted/blended/

Interactive Video Courses: www.blinn.edu/disted/ivc/

Supplemental Courses: www.blinn.edu/disted/supplement/

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I begin my course?

The first day of class for the Spring 2010 semester is January 19. To login:

1. Go to eCampus at <https://ecampus.blinn.edu>
2. Your username is your 6-digit Blinn ID, and your password is your birthday, written YYYYMMDD
3. Click Log On.

Is there a certain time I should log on?

There is no specific time you should log on to take the class. You can log on at any time of the day or night as long as you turn in your assignments by your instructor's due date.

What Distance Education courses do you offer?

Go to www.blinn.edu/disted and click on Courses. You may also search for DE courses in BORIS <https://boris.blinn.edu>.

Will I have to come to campus?

Internet courses typically do not require face-to-face meetings, although some Internet courses do require on-campus testing or on-campus labs. If you have any questions about coming to campus for your Internet course, please contact your instructor.

For blended, interactive video, or supplemental courses, attend class at the time printed on your schedule.

Blinn College does have a attendance policy that applies to all courses. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

How do I contact my Instructor?

Go to Blinn's home page www.blinn.edu. Roll your mouse over the Faculty and Staff tab. From the drop down menu that appears, click Blinn College Directory. Type in your instructor's first or last name. The contact information should appear.

What books will I need?

Contact your instructor and the bookstore for information on the books you will need.

Why am I not able to log on to eCampus or see my course(s)?

You will not be able to log on or see your courses until the first day of classes, January 19, 2010. If you make changes to your schedule (adding or dropping a course), it takes eCampus 24 hours to update. You will not be able to log in or see the course you just registered for until the following day.

Can I be forced into a course?

The Distance Education Department cannot force students into courses. You will need to contact the division chair for that particular course to determine if that division allows students to be forced into courses.



Still have questions?



- Visit www.blinn.edu/disted
 - * Click on Students to find out more information.
 - * Click on December Minimester or Spring 2010 for semester-specific information.
- Take the READI assessment at www.blinn.edu/disted/students/current/ which will help you assess your readiness for enrolling in a Distance Education course.
- Call the Distance Education office at 979-209-7298.