Western Carolina Fully-Online Courses

Many of you will have courses that are **web-enhanced** which simply means your instructor is choosing to use the course management software supported by the university to post course information and supplemental resources. In **web-enhanced** courses, the instructor may post as little as the course syllabus or may decide to use more of the course management tools available, such as discussion boards, quizzes, or mail to name a few of the additional features.

Here, in a “nutshell,” is the difference between a web-enhanced course and a **fully-online** course. When a course is **fully-online** we share all the course materials and information with you online and all the interaction (instructor to student, student to student) is online.

To be successful in a **fully-online** course you need to:

- Meet the WCU computer (hardware and software) requirements.
- Have computer skills that make it possible for you to succeed in a **fully-online** environment, i.e.
- Creating and saving Microsoft documents
- Organizing course materials in folders on your computer or jump/flash drive.
- Managing several open browsers at the same time
- Successfully copying/pasting materials into documents
- Searching web sites or using links to access information, i.e. Library research
- Installing/setting up new software (iTunes, QuickTime, etc)
- Creating and saving html files
- Posting information to discussion boards
- Using email regularly
- Saving favorites or bookmarking materials
- Using other technologies available to maintain research materials or share information for group work
- Access WCU Blackboard from the WCU.edu website and click on Student Resources > Content
- Secure and use the headset & microphone needed for more advanced technology such as WIMBA
- Secure a web-camera for creating videos or for net-conferencing with other students
- Practice good time management skills
- Be self-disciplined
- Possess good written communication skills (spelling and grammar), including “Netiquette”
- Commit the time your program requires to focused study
- Attend class (You still have to “show up” daily in your course and participate as required)

The University delivering a course **fully-online** provides another way for you to receive course content. **Fully-online** courses are NOT easier and many times may be more challenging than the face-to-face option. The **fully-online** course section allows for flexibility in scheduling but requires your willingness to learn new technologies as well as new content.

If you decide to take a **fully-online** course, we recommend you wait until you have upper-level standing. You will have had the opportunity to hone your writing skills, research skills, study skills, self-direction and fluency with technology in your first two years at WCU.

If you have questions, please visit DoIT Student Support at [http://www.wcu.edu/27159.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/27159.asp) or call at 227-7487 for more information.

**Have a great year!**