

Distance Education Resources



- Texas A&M University offers graduate-level distance education (DE) [degree](#) and [certificate](#) programs.
- DE programs provide flexible, online coursework that can be completed anywhere reliable, high-speed Internet access is available.

How Distance Education Works at Texas A&M

Individual colleges independently administer and coordinate DE programs at the university, which may include:

- **General administrative policies and procedures**
- **Descriptions and requirements for entire programs and individual courses**
- **Required on-campus (i.e., in-person) courses, events, and other activities**
- **Academic advising**
- **Computer, software, and other technical requirements, and**
- **Arrangements for completing assignments and taking assessments (exams)**

Advantages of Distance Education

- **Distance education provides students with more scheduling flexibility when learning activities are asynchronous**
- **Students save time and money by not commuting to and from campus classes**
- **By eliminating the time and place constraints of typical face-to-face courses, course-related materials can be more customized and expansive**
- **Student-centered learning typically translates into greater student interactivity and engagement**

Advantages of Distance Education

In addition, distance education provides:

- **Excellent Instruction –**
- **Interactivity – Active Learning**

Getting Online

- Most distance education courses delivered through eCampus:
 - <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>
- For help with eCampus:
 - Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
 - Phone: (979) 845-8300

Basic Expectations for Distance Education Students

- **Have access to a computer with fast, reliable Internet connectivity and up-to-date software**
- **Know how to perform common computer functions (saving and attaching files, creating folders) and navigate the Internet (using search engines, entering passwords)**
- **Communicate effectively and clearly using email and online discussion boards to work on assignments with students who may be in different time zones**
- **Be disciplined in setting and maintaining a schedule to complete work and provide timely responses to other students and instructors, even when there are distractions online or at home**
- **Remain comfortable and consistent in being online several times a week to participate in courses**
- **Ask proactive and appropriate questions when assignments, concepts, expectations, or homework solutions are unclear**

Time Management & Study Skills for Distance Education Students

When considering taking distance education courses, it is important to possess strong time management and study skills—independence, discipline, and self-motivation are therefore essential. Here are some tips:

- **Identify and become familiar with the technology used in each course**
- **Gather contact information for each course, as well as for technical assistance, before classes start**
- **Follow course syllabi to determine assignment due dates**
- **Avoid procrastination—don't wait until the last minute to identify or submit assignments**
- **Set specific times and locate a suitable, distraction-free place for studying**
- **Postpone other activities until coursework is done**
- **Use free time wisely**
- **Be an independent and self-motivated learner**

The Core Rules of Netiquette (Internet Etiquette)

- **Rule 1. Remember the human.** -- Never forget that the person reading your mail or posting is, indeed, a person, with feelings that can be hurt.
- **Rule 2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.**
- **Rule 3. Know where you are in cyberspace.**
- **Rule 4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth.**
- **Rule 5. Make yourself look good online.**
- **Rule 6. Share expert knowledge.**
- **Rule 7. Help keep flame wars under control.**
- **Rule 8. Respect other people's privacy.** -- Don't read other people's private email.
- **Rule 9. Don't abuse your power.** -- The more power you have, the more important it is that you use it well.
- **Rule 10. Be forgiving of other people's mistakes.** -- You were a network newbie once too!

Excerpted from "Netiquette" by Virginia Shea, ISBN 0-9637025-1-3, Albion Books, PO Box 590594, San Francisco 94159, info@albion.com, Copyright 1994 Virginia Shea.

Aggie Honor Code

- **At Texas A&M, academic misconduct and dishonesty are taken very seriously.**
- **Aggies are expected to behave ethically and exemplify integrity in all that they do.**
- **Simply put, the Aggie Honor Code states:**

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

