

MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Taking Classes Online (Distance Learning)

MYTH

Online classes are easier than face-to-face (F2F) courses.

TRUTH

Many students find online classes to be MORE challenging than F2F classes because online classes require more time management, self-motivation, written communication skills, technological skills, and reading ability. On average, students usually earn higher grades in F2F classes than in online classes.

MYTH

Online classes are “work at your own pace.”

TRUTH

Unless the course is specifically listed as “self-paced” it will have due dates and deadlines just like F2F classes. If you miss those deadlines due to a computer problem or because you didn’t go online that day, your grade will suffer. It is VERY important to log in to the class as soon as the class begins for the term as there will be assignments due right away.

MYTH

Taking an online class is a good way to learn computer skills.

TRUTH

In order to be successful in an online class, you should already know how to use email (including attaching and sending documents), how to navigate an online environment (do you regularly shop, pay bills, spend time online?), and how to access Blackboard. You should also have easy access to a reliable computer with up-to-date software and stable internet access.

MYTH

You can sign up for online classes past the official add date.

TRUTH

Online classes are subject to the same add/drop dates as F2F classes. Online students are subject to all the same MxCC policies and procedures as on-campus students.

*** Check the payment due date for the semester you are taking classes.**

Assess online literacy – go to: <http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Content/READI.asp>

For the curious: MxCC Online stats: http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Content/Ed_Tech_News_1.asp