



Educational Technology News

from MxCC Distance Learning



February 22, 2010 ~ Spring 2010, Edition 1

Online Enrollment in Spring 2010

39 fully online classes are offered with 1144 registered seats. There are an average of 29.3 students per class. This reflects a 22% increase over Spring '09 and a 9% increase over Fall '09. 757 students (26.7%) are taking at least one fully online class offered at MxCC. Four hybrid credit courses and one hybrid non-credit course are offered with 102 seats.

MyCommNet and Blackboard Downtime



MyCommnet and Blackboard Vista will be down from **Saturday, March 13th** to noon of **Monday, March 15th**. Online and hybrid courses may adjust due dates during the weekend of March 13th and March 14th.

Distance Learning has a new look on the web. Happy Browsing!



Distance Learning has converted its technology support web pages to the college's new CMS system and changed navigation paths on the new college web site. Faculty, staff, and students are able to easily access pages regarding technology workshops, technology resources, and online learning directly off the MxCC Home Page at:

<http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu>.

Under

▶ Faculty & Staff

there are three links:

Educational Technology Training

A technology training site with current MxCC training schedule, training handouts, links to virtual training, Faculty Blackboard Vista Resources, and the system Course Cart where you may sign up for system-wide training workshops.

Faculty Online Teaching

A site for faculty members who teach online/hybrid/Blackboard Vista-enhanced on-ground courses. It has links to announcements about Blackboard Vista courses, online course development guidelines, best practices for online teaching, iTeach information, technical help, trouble-shooting tips, and Blackboard Vista resources.

Faculty Technology Resources

An overview of all technology resources provided to MxCC full-time and adjunct faculty members: NetID/password, Email, myCommNet, Faculty Self-Service, Blackboard Vista, Academic Advising, and Library Research Help. Instructions on how to use the technology resources are provided.

Under

▶ Current Students

there are two links:

Distance Learning

A central "hub" for MxCC students taking fully online, hybrid, and Blackboard Vista-enhanced on-ground courses. It provides information for online students with FAQs for online learning, READI assessment, online orientation, campus orientation, Blackboard Vista tutorials, technical support information, trouble-shooting tips, and success tips.

Student Technology Resources

An overview of all technology resources provided to MxCC students: NetID/password, myCommNet, Student Self-Service, Blackboard Vista, Virtual Campus, Academic Advising, and Library Research Help. Instructions on how to use these technology resources are provided.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman 632/633

mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning
Sandra Couture, Educational Technology Specialist

Mark Szady, Distance Learning Assistant
Mike Rodriguez, Distance Learning Assistant



Spring 2010 Technology Training Schedule



Location: Chapman 629

Seat Reservation: email mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu or call (860) - 343 -5756. 2/26/10 and 3/12/10 sessions: go to IITT Course Cart <http://www.commnet.edu/academics/iitt/coursecart.asp> to register.

More training sessions offered at other Connecticut community colleges can be found in the [IITT Course Cart](#). Click on Launch Course Cart button. Logon with your Netted and password.

Friday, 2/5/2010—Passed

9:00 am—12 Noon **Getting Started with Blackboard Vista**

Extensive session with Blackboard basic features: syllabus, announcements, mail, calendar, discussions, and student tracking reports. Bring your syllabus and class files for practice.

Friday, 2/19/2010—Passed

9:00 am—12 Noon **Getting Started with Blackboard Vista** (see description on 2/5/10)

Friday, 2/26/2010

9:00 am - 10:30 am **Communicate with Students in Blackboard Vista**

Best practices and strategies to enhance communication with students. Announcement, calendar, mail, chat, roster, who's online.

10:45am - 12:15pm **Facilitate Interaction and Dialogue in Blackboard Vista**

Best practices and strategies to enhance interaction in your course. Create discussions, use grading forms, discussions and My Grades tool, and goals.

Friday, 3/5/2010

9:00 am – 12 Noon **Microsoft PowerPoint 2007**

This session will introduce new users to PowerPoint 2007. Learn how to create slide shows and use PowerPoint effectively for teaching and presentations.

Friday, 3/12/2010

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Use Grade Book and Grading Forms (Rubrics) in Blackboard Vista**

This session will introduce new users to PowerPoint 2007. Learn how to create slide shows and use PowerPoint effectively for teaching and presentations.

10:45 am – 12:15 pm **Design Group Activities and Assignments in Blackboard Vista**

Assignments drop box, Assignment feedback and My Grades tool. Grading forms in assignments. Best practices and strategies for designing effective group activities. Setting up groups in Group Manager.

Friday, 4/23/2010

10:00 am – 12 Noon **Web 2.0 Overview**

Blogs, Wikis, Twitter, Social Networking - Web 2.0 Technology is emerging. Come find out what the buzz is about. *IRM Committee is working on MxCC Web 2.0 Guidelines.

Friday, 4/30/2010

10:00 am – 12 Noon **Web 2.0 Wikis for Groups & Committees**

Discover how a free online wiki tool allows users to add and edit content collectively.

Friday, 5/7/2010

10:00 am – 12 Noon **Web 2.0 Social Networking: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn**

Social Networking web sites allow people to link with others to share opinions, insights, experiences and perspectives. Examples include music fans on MySpace, business contacts on LinkedIn, or classmates on Facebook.

Visit the MxCC Technology Training web page for training handouts at:

http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Content/Educational_Technology_Training.asp

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