

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Online Courses at Harcum College**

### **Do I need to know a great deal about computers to succeed in an online course?**

You do need to complete some basic computer tasks in an online course. These tasks involve:

- Using a web browser such as Internet Explorer, FireFox
- Researching the Internet
- Using a word processing program such as Microsoft Word
- Downloading and installing programs
- Using more than one computer program at a time
- Sending attachments
- Cutting, copying and pasting text

### **Do online course take less time than regular courses?**

No. Except for possible commuting time, online courses usually take longer, because you must review most of the material independently. For some courses, you may have to come on campus to meet with professors and/or take tests and exams.

### **Do I have to meet with my professor?**

This is up to your instructor. Most professors schedule an initial on-campus meeting at the beginning of the semester to meet with students and review the course and course website. Some courses use a type of program that allows you to meet and chat in real time on the Web or post comments and provide feedback in a discussion area.

### **If I am a busy person, should I take an online course?**

Many learners have obligations that interfere with attendance during regular hours. If you have the right equipment, Internet access, and time to work on the course regularly, online learning is suitable for you. Disabled learners can benefit from the advantages of online courses also.

### **Are there certain types of students who do better in online courses?**

Students who are highly self-motivated, responsible, and self-disciplined will do better in an online course.

### **Are online courses "easier" than on campus courses?**

No. The same course material is covered and the same course objectives must be met with each course.

## **Do I need to buy a textbook if I take a class online?**

Yes. The textbook is just as important as it is in any class. Be sure to consult the class syllabus and check with your instructor.

## **As long as I have a computer and internet access, am I adequately equipped to take an online course?**

Not necessarily. Your equipment should satisfy the following criteria.  
Minimum Requirements

- 20 GB hard drive
- Computer Types:
  - Pentium or better(PC)
  - PowerPC G4 or better (Mac)
- 512 MB of RAM
- 56.6 Modem
- Operating Systems:
  - Windows 2000 or XP (PC)
  - OS X, 10.3.9 (Mac)
- Web Browsers:
  - Internet Explorer - 6.0 or higher
  - FireFox - 2.0 or higher
  - Cookies Enabled
  - JavaScript Enabled
- Internet access with an e-mail account
- Course-specifics:
  - Plug-ins\*
  - Software\*
  - Hardware\*

### **Recommended Requirements:**

- 40 GB hard drive
- Computer Types:
  - Pentium IV or better (PC)
  - Intel Based (Mac)
- 1 GB MB of RAM
- DSL/Cable Modem
- Operating Systems:
  - Windows XP or Vista (PC)
  - OS X, 10.4 or better (MAC)
- Web Browsers:
  - Internet Explorer - 7.0 or higher

- FireFox - 2.0 or higher
- Cookies Enabled
- JavaScript Enabled
- Internet access with an e-mail account
- Course-specific:
  - Plug-ins\*
  - Software\*
  - Hardware\*

*\* Some courses may have additional technical requirements.*