



DISTANCE ED CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CCCC'S DISTANCE STUDENTS

WWW.CCCC.EDU/DE.HTML

DE News—FALL 2007, ISSUE 4

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CCCC NEWS AND BEYOND

- ◆ **IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR FALL 2007 SEMESTER:**
See page 3 for full details about tuition, change of programs, and mini-mester courses.
- ◆ **A PERFECT SCORE:**
CCCC received a perfect score in the North Carolina Community College System's just-released "2007 Critical Success Factors Report." The college met or exceeded 12 performance measures established by the NCCCS.
- ◆ **BLACKBOARD:**
Steps taken by the IT & Distance Ed. departments this summer led to Blackboard, Inc. hosting all of CCCC's courses. The DE Department hopes that an off-campus host will help reduce the number of error messages received by online students while logged in to Blackboard. Please continue to share experiences about CCCC DE in your College Resources 101 online course.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY, DISTANCE EDUCATION!

Greetings!

Distance Education at Central Carolina Community College has expanded exponentially since the spring of 1997 when the college began offering only four telecourses! Today, over 200 courses are offered, mostly online, and over one-third of our students are enrolled in at least one distance course each semester. CCCC Distance Education has gone from serving eighty students in 1997 to over 2,000 students per semester, and we thank the College and community for supporting us the along the journey. Thanks, too, to our pioneering distance education students, past and present, for a rewarding ten years. May distance learning continue to promote ever-widening opportunity for personal and professional growth to CCCC students, faculty, staff, and the community at large.

Sincerely,
Bianka Stumpf
Director of Distance Education



The UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA *Online*

16 Universities. One Link. Unlimited Possibilities.

Sixteen universities. One Link. Unlimited Possibilities: This slogan sums up what the new UNC Online initiative is all about. Now, instead of searching every website from each UNC system school, distance students interested in transferring can access all UNC degrees offered online from one website: <http://online.northcarolina.edu/>

"The University of North Carolina Online lists several baccalaureate-completion programs. All of these programs currently rely on community colleges to provide coursework for the first two years of requirements. The online baccalaureate-completion program provides the 'upper division' courses to allow you to complete your undergraduate major (FAQ page, UNC Online site)." In addition to accessing degree information, the website also contains a comprehensive list of all online courses offered at each of the sixteen UNC systems schools.

Dr. Jim Sadler, Associate Vice President of Academic Planning from the UNC System Office states, "Our UNC institutions offer about 140 online degree and certificate programs and thousands of online courses, and it really helps a student to be able to find all of this information in one location."

Read a full interview with Dr. Sadler about this initiative and online learning in North Carolina on page 2.

“NC community colleges are our partners in our service to the state”

MEET DR. JIM SADLER

Associate Vice President of Academic Planning

The University of North Carolina System

Dr. Jim Sadler, who led a majority of the UNC Online initiative, knows that distance education is the perfect way to accomplish his number one goal: extending the benefits of higher education to more North Carolinians. “We can do this through outreach with our online programs...My greatest satisfaction comes from hearing testimonials from students who have obtained a degree through distance education who otherwise would not have been able to do so.” The UNC Online initiative is one major step to help distance students, especially those in community colleges, easily access transfer information for UNC system schools and take ownership over their educations by successfully moving on to a four-year school.

Although the UNC Online initiative encourages students to pursue distance degrees, Dr. Sadler cautions students on thinking these courses are easier. “Make sure you have the discipline needed to work independently and keep up in your assignments...You can’t sit there and daydream!” he states. Furthermore, he encourages students to embrace the partnership between the UNC system and the community college system. “Take as many courses from your community colleges as possible, either on campus or online. Finish your associate’s degree and make sure you have the courses you need to transfer the credit to a UNC degree program...Communicate with the UNC degree program that you are interested in and arrange a visit to meet a faculty member...If you have a job, talk to your employer about your plans, and get your employer’s support.”

As the communities’ needs in North Carolina change, the UNC System and North Carolina Community College system must be strategic in decisions made about degree program offerings. Dr. Sadler adds, “North Carolina must be competitive in a global economic environment where many jobs are being outsourced as we face international competition. The state’s economic base is changing rapidly from agriculture and manufacturing to a knowledge-based environment where a highly-skilled and educated workforce is needed to attract the types of high-paying industries and business to North Carolina that we desire....Distance education will help address these needs.”

Dr. Jim Sadler is a ten-year veteran of the UNC General Administration which is the system office for the sixteen-campus University of North Carolina. “North Carolina community colleges are our partners in our service to the state,” he says. “Please use the UNC Online website, and give us feedback on how it can be more useful to you.”

DE CALENDAR & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

August 10, 2007

Last day to pay before open registration

August 15, 2007

Open Registration for fall 2007, Lee Campus; 9:00 a.m.—7:00 a.m.

August 16, 2007

Open Registration for fall 2007 Harnett & Chatham Campuses

August 17, 2007

Last day to withdraw and be eligible for a 100% refund

August 20, 2007

Distance education begins; Login to Blackboard/ Orientations (4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.)

August 24, 2007

Last day to register, drop/add, and make contact with instructor

August 24, 2007

Last day to withdraw and be eligible for a 75% refund

October 4

Graduation Meeting

October 8 and 9

Distance Education on-campus midterm exams (online dates may vary)

October 29-November 9

Early registration for spring 2008 Returning students only

November 9

Last day to apply for graduation

November 15

Last day to withdraw without a “WF”

e-Vocabulary

When discussing with classmates informally, such as via instant messenger, it’s easier to use these acronyms that are predominant in the online world!

AAMOF

As a matter of fact

BTW

By the way

CMIW

Correct me if I’m wrong

HTH

Hope this helps

IMHO

In my humble opinion

IOW

In other words

LOL

Laughing out loud

OTOH

On the other hand

TIA

Thanks in advance

ROFL

Rolling on the floor laughing

TTYL

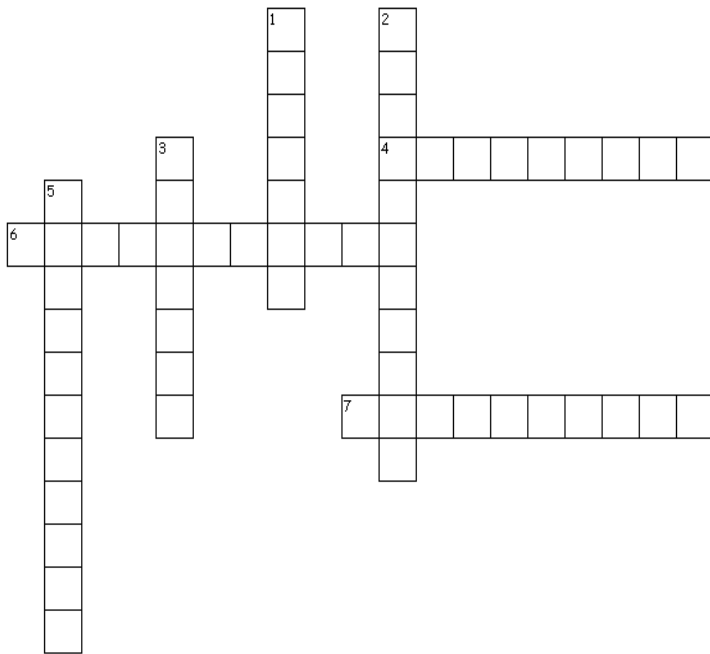
Talk to you later

TYVM

Thank you very much



DISTANCE EDUCATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ANSWERS: 1) DESTAFF; 2) SYSTEM CHECK; 3) NETMALL; 4) TEST DRIVE; 5) ORIENTATION; 6) PROCTOR FORM; 7) ACCOUNTING

Down

1. Problems with Blackboard? Call the 24/7 helpline or send an e-mail to _____@cccc.edu.
2. Link from the DE webpage that scans your computer for Blackboard compatibility.
3. CCCC's student email system.
5. Students must complete this during the first week of each distance education course.

Across

4. Try out online classes by logging in to this "course".
6. Your DE course requires an on-campus midterm, but you know in advance that you'll be out of town. Fill this out and submit it to the DE department.
7. Good with numbers? Obtain this degree 100% via distance education at CCCC.

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR FALL 2007



To better serve our students, Central Carolina Community College will begin using a new computer system starting Fall 2007.

Please note the following information for the 2007-2008 school year:

CURRICULUM TUITION REFUND POLICY

Refunds will be granted under the following circumstances only:

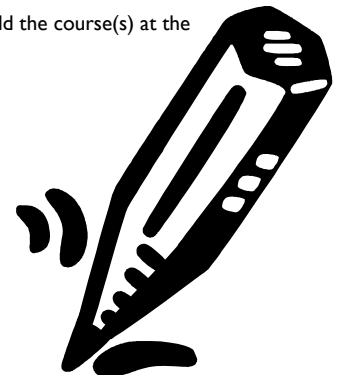
- A 100% refund shall be made if the student officially withdraws prior to the first day of class(es) of the academic semester as noted in the college calendar. Also, a student is eligible for a 100% refund if the class in which the student is officially registered is canceled due to insufficient enrollment.
- A 75% refund shall be made if the student officially withdraws from the class(es) prior to or on the official 10% point of the semester. NOTE: If you drop and add the equivalent number of credit hours during the drop/add period, you must drop and add the course(s) at the same time in order to avoid being charged 25% of the cost of the dropped course(s).
- Refunds for tuition and fees for never attending classes will not be granted to students. This includes students who are in distance education classes who did not complete the orientation. Students must officially withdraw with a counselor or advisor to meet deadlines for a refund (see Curriculum Tuition Refund Policy above).
- Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for refunds to be processed and mailed.

CHANGE OF PROGRAM

A Change of Program Form should be submitted by the end of drop/add period to take effect for the current term. If a Change of Program Form is submitted after the drop/add period, the new program will not be effective until the start of the next term.

LATE STARTING COURSE/2nd MINI-SESSION COURSES

Financial Aid Students must sign up for all classes at the beginning of the semester prior to the end of drop/add. Any course(s) added to a student's schedule after the drop/add period (including 2nd mini-session courses) will not be included in funding by Financial Aid.



We appreciate your understanding and patience as we implement the new computer system.