



Online Education



2015-2016

Student Handbook

P.O. Box 818 Baytown, TX 77522

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I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome, Students!

Welcome to the Lee College Online Education program. We are excited that you have chosen to learn with us, and we look forward to helping you achieve your educational goals.

Online education is a convenient way to access the learning environment, and if you are new to online learning at our college, we understand that you may have many questions. This handbook is designed to provide online learners with specific information about Lee College student services, technical support, tutoring and policies.

Please use this handbook as a resource, but also remember that there are many dedicated employees at Lee College who are willing to assist you. Don't hesitate to use the contact information in this handbook and in your course information materials to find assistance with other questions you may have.

We want to provide you with the knowledge and skills to successfully navigate in the modern world!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cathy Kemper
Vice President of Learning

Mission Statement of Online Learning at Lee College

To provide educational opportunities to students through an alternative delivery method, Lee College faculty will provide and promote superior online learning in keeping with expectations of local industry and four-year institutions.

II. ONLINE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CLASS FORMATS

Online Course (OL) — A course in which more than 85 percent of the instruction occurs when the student(s) and instructor(s) are not in the same place. Online courses may require mandatory face-to-face sessions, such as orientation, laboratory, exam review, or exams in the college testing center.

Hybrid Course (HO) — A course in which a majority (more than 50 percent but less than 85 percent), of the planned instruction occurs when the students and instructor(s) are not in the same place. Hybrid courses have regular class meetings, but meeting times vary. Hybrid courses could meet once per week, or once every few weeks, depending on the instructor.

Format	Delivery method	Class Schedule Symbol	Percent of Instruction outside of class			
			0%	50%	85%	100%
<i>In Class</i>	Face-to-Face Courses	F001	0% Instruction occurs in Blackboard			
	Internet-enhanced Courses	F001	1%-50% Instruction occurs in Blackboard			
Online	Hybrid	HO01		51%-84% Instruction in Blackboard		
	Online	OL01			85%-100% Instruction in Blackboard	

Classes may be offered in a variety of lengths throughout the semester. During the long semester, classes may be offered in 16-week, 12-week, and 8-week sessions. During the summer, classes may be offered in 3 week, 5-week or 10-week sessions. Courses will be offered online through Blackboard, Lee College's Learning Management System (LMS)

ARE ONLINE COURSES RIGHT FOR ME?

New students who register for an online course must take Smarter Measure. Smarter Measure is an assessment that measures your readiness for online courses. It will tell you if online courses and a technology-rich environment are a good fit for you.

For more information, visit this site: <http://lee.readi.info/>

TESTING

Testing is conducted in a variety of ways, depending on your instructor. Exams may be given online through Blackboard or on campus in the testing center. It is important to communicate with the instructor and read the syllabus for testing schedules and locations.

If you are required to test on campus, you must make an appointment and bring a photo ID. The Lee College testing center is located on the second floor of Rundell Hall. Call 281.425.6384 or 800.621.8724 for appointments.

Testing Center Hours:

Monday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Browser:

PC Users: Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome
Mac Users: Safari, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome

Operating System:

PC Users: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7 or higher
Mac Users: OSX 10.6 or higher

Pop-up blockers need to be set to allow pop-ups from the LMS side (elearn.lee.edu)

BLACKBOARD ORIENTATION COURSE

Students are strongly encouraged to take the Lee College Blackboard Orientation Course. This course takes you through the nuts and bolts of Blackboard, the college learning management system. You will get a basic understanding of how online courses are set up, how to upload assignments, participate in discussion boards, take tests, etc.

*Your instructor may also provide a separate orientation for his/her specific class. See below.

ONLINE CLASS ORIENTATION

Orientations are mandatory for all OL courses, and they may be online or face-to-face, depending on the instructor. Online students must contact instructors for orientation times and locations. During orientation, instructors will introduce themselves and provide any relevant course information.

COST OF ONLINE COURSES

Distance Education courses cost the same as on-campus courses with the addition of a \$50 fee. Students may use the "Tuition and Fees Table Calculator" at the Lee College Business Office Web page to calculate the cost of courses.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR ONLINE COURSES?

The Student Success/Counseling Center counselors are available to help students register for courses. Students may also register independently by logging into their myLC account and registering for online courses.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Students will retain the same rights to privacy in online courses as they would in a traditional classroom environment.

III. ONLINE STUDENT SERVICES

Blackboard Technical Support

Paula Lee
281.425.6285
plee@lee.edu

myLC Help Desk

281.425.MYLC
281.425.6952
helpdesk@lee.edu

Writing Center

Bonner Hall 225
281.425.6534
wconline@lee.edu
<http://www.lee.edu/writing/>

Math Lab

Bonner Hall 113
281.425.6891

Testing Center

Rundell Hall, 2nd Floor
281.425.6384 or 800.621.8724

Monday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Library Resources

ATC Building, 1st Floor
Jeannie Colson
281.425.6497
jcolson@lee.edu
<http://www.lee.edu/library/services/dist-ed/>

Financial Aid

Rundell Hall, 1st Floor
281.425.6389
finaid@lee.edu
<http://www.lee.edu/financialaid/>

Counseling Services

Location: Rundell Hall, 1st Floor
Phone: 281.425.6384 or 800.621.8724
Fax: 832.556.4004
E-mail: counselor@lee.edu

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Disability Services

K-Leigh Low Villanueva
Rundell Hall, 1st Floor
832.556.4069 or 281.425.4069
klow@lee.edu
<http://www.lee.edu/counseling/disabilities/>

Veterans Counseling

Ehab Mustafa
Rundell Hall, 1st Floor
832.556.4300 or 832.556.4302
emustafa@lee.edu
va@lee.edu
<http://www.lee.edu/counseling/veterans.asp>

Text Alerts

Sign up at: <http://www.lee.edu/alerts/>

Lee College has a state-of-the-art notification system that is capable of sending you notifications instantly and simultaneously on several kinds of devices. You may choose to receive notifications on your:

- Mobile phone (text message)
- Blackberry
- Wireless PDA
- Pager
- E-mail address
- Lee College website
- Google, Yahoo, or AOL home page

You will receive information about:

- Weather cancellations and delays
- Emergency conditions
- You may also check on any of the optional groups listed from which you would like to receive notifications.
- To register, you must fill out the form on the Web. To complete the process, make sure your cell phone is powered on.

IV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Online courses are often the answer for students who are busy, have difficulty driving to the college, or live far away. With a different format from the traditional learning environment, students should consider a number of factors to determine their chances for success. These FAQs below may help you determine your readiness to successfully complete such courses.

1. Are online (OL) classes easier than traditional classes?

No. Online classes are more difficult due to the amount of self-discipline, motivation and time that is required to successfully complete an OL class. While they do offer flexibility and convenience for people with already busy schedules, the motivation for completing the assignments, taking the tests and all other requirements falls to the student. The student must log in everyday to the course to check for announcements, updates, new postings, etc., and take the appropriate actions. Most OL courses are NOT self-paced and do have deadlines for turning in assignments and taking tests, just like a traditional class.

2. How do you know if online classes are a good fit?

Online Education classes are definitely not for everyone. In a typical OL class, the student will be working independently and in an asynchronous environment. This means there is not much real-time interaction between the students and the instructor. In addition to good typing, reading, and communication skills, there are a number of general computer skills needed, too. You need to be able to attach documents, upload and download files, email, and post discussions. The successful OL student is self-motivated, has good time management skills, self-discipline, and is independent.

3. Are online courses accessible from anywhere?

Yes, it is available anywhere that has high-speed Internet access. If you have Internet access, you should be able to access your courses. People considering OL courses need to consider what type of Internet service they have access to. If only dial-up Internet is available, distance education courses may not be the answer to your education needs. If the Internet service in your area is not ideal, check out other resources in your area that might be better, such as the public library.

4. Will I be required to come to campus during the semester if I am taking an OL course?

It is a possibility:

- Courses marked as "H01" are "Hybrid" and 51%-84% of instruction will occur in Blackboard.
- Courses marked as "OL" will have 85%-100% of instruction will occur in Blackboard
- Some instructors do require that students come to campus to take their exams.
- Depending on the course, students might also be required to come to campus for activities related to course work, such as lab work or group projects.

5. How much time is required for on OL class?

An OL class is typically going to require significantly more time than a traditional one. Students should understand that each hour of class credit requires three hours per week: one hour in lecture and two hours personal study/homework. For example, a three-hour course requires nine hours per week, three hours in class and six hours on your own. It is the student's responsibility to login and check for announcements, emails, new discussion postings, assignments or assessments that have been released and complete the work. Also, students should not wait until the last minute to submit assignments or take exams or assessments. Technical glitches are a very real possibility. If something does happen while taking an assessment or trying to submit assignments, students should notify the instructor immediately.

6. Since the class is online, does that mean it is self-paced, or can the student complete it whenever?

No. The majority of OL classes will have assignments and assessments that have due dates associated with them. If a student fails to complete them on time, the student will not be able to access and submit them. Students need to contact their instructors immediately if they are having technical trouble with assignments/assessments. Again, it is important complete work in advance, and **not** to try to complete course material immediately before the deadline.

7. Do all online and hybrid classes use Blackboard?

Yes, every instructor uses Blackboard.

8. What is Blackboard?

Blackboard is a company that develops Learning Management Systems. It is a self-contained place to present material to students. Blackboard can be used in a variety of manners, such as online or hybrid instruction, or to enhance a traditional class. It can also serve as a virtual community for users, such as the drafting community, the nursing community, honor societies, or faculty learning communities. The advantage of Blackboard is that it is self-contained, so sensitive information is not accessible to unauthorized users.

9. Is there a test that I can take to measure my readiness for online education courses?

Yes! Lee College would like every student to be successful. All incoming students are required to take the Smarter Measure, a readiness test that can be taken anywhere there is Internet access. Smarter Measure has a secure database that can be accessed by our counselors after the test has been completed.

<http://lee.readi.info/>

10. Do I need to own a computer?

Yes. OL courses are designed for the student who wants to study at a different location than the college, and has high-speed Internet access. If you only have access to dial-up service, you should not take an online course.