Facts and Tips About Online Learning

The FAU College of Nursing offers courses in **TOTALLY ONLINE formats, classroom courses, and classroom courses supplemented by online work.**

- Courses taught **TOTALLY ONLINE** use the **ECOLLEGE** platform. In a fully online course, there is no classroom lecture or meeting;
- Courses supplemented by online activities use the **BLACKBOARD** platform. This is a combination of classroom lectures and meetings some weeks with other learning activities occurring completely online.

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Important information to take a totally online Ecollege course:
Make sure that your computer is ready for you to take an Ecollege course:
- ✓ Log on to: http://faunursing.net page
- ✓ Select the technical requirement tab and take the browser test. This will advise you about readiness of your equipment
- ✓ Internet connections (dial-up services may inhibit access to some class materials), hardware and software requirements are included

How to locate Ecollege Nursing Website:
- ✓ Go directly to the Ecollege nursing courses via http://faunursing.net (preferred) or visit the FAU Ecollege site at http://fauonline.net.

How to log into your Ecollege course:
- ✓ Ecollege login: http://faunursing.net
- ✓ Your logon is your FAU logon (or FAU Net ID), such as: if your email is: happy@fau.edu, then your logon is: happy. Your initial password is: student. Please change your password after your initial logon.
- ✓ Scroll down and find your nursing course/s and click on the link to "open" your course.
- ✓ For log in questions ONLY, please contact Alison Heim at aheim@fau.edu

For technical problems, contact the 24/7 Ecollege HelpDesk at helpdesk@faunursing.net or call 1-877-740-2213.

Instructor's expectations of online students:
- ✓ **Basic computer skills**, such as working in MS Word or compatible software, receiving and sending attachments, downloading and uploading files, navigating the Web, word processing skills, posting and replying to discussion threads, email etiquette and ability to check FAU email system often.
- ✓ **Complete the Ecollege student tutorial** located on the login page if new to Ecollege course learning and thoroughly read all course documents and information under the Home tab.

- ✓ **Self-directed learner**. Personal skills to be a successful online learner include: being self-motivated, self-disciplined, organized, a good reader, comfortable communicating in writing, utilizing and integrating resources, active participation and the mutual sharing of information as we become and know each other within the learning journey.
- ✓ **Good organizational skills**. Time management is a huge factor in online success. Students are expected to block out time equivalent to the time spent in a campus class plus study time outside of class. Students are expected to keep up with all course readings, assignments, due dates, requirements for discussions- just like you would for any college-level course! There are usually weekly discussions requiring scholarly writing and integration of course content, readings, and references so writing skills are especially important.

- ✓ **Familiar with how to ask questions and how to contact faculty.** Students are expected to follow all course and assignment directions and to contact faculty ASAP if course content/assignment criteria need further explanation. Check your FAU email often for important messages from faculty and your class colleagues.

Courses that are taught using online learning offer many advantages such as 24 hour access, learning from the convenience of your home and flexible learning. Many students prefer online courses for these reasons, yet others prefer the traditional classroom setting. In both formats, there are opportunities for dialogue with colleagues and coming to know each other in a scholarly environment. In choosing the type of course that's right for you, consider:

- • **Self-directed learners do well with online learning- EVALUATE YOUR LEARNING STYLE!**
- • **Seek advice from your advisor to help you in this important decision-making!**
- • **Remember that taking an online course for the first time will require some advance preparation to orient to the format and expectations.**
- • **Online courses require basic writing style and APA skills just as live classes. However, in online courses there may be weekly written assignments. Students are expected to work with FAUs Writing Center** (accessed online): www.fau.edu/ECEW **early in your coursework if this assistance is needed**.