Manitoba 🐃

Education and Advanced Learning

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DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Distance learning is a method of accessing courses of study even though learners and their teachers, instructors, or tutor/markers may be in different physical locations. Distance learning provides program flexibility and equitable access to diverse learning opportunities, while at the same time respects local community decisions regarding program implementation.

	Independent Study Option (ISO)	**Web-based Courses (WBC)**
How does this option work?	• Individual students complete their courses independently - that is, without being taught by a teacher or attending scheduled classes. • Students pace themselves and are allowed 12 months to complete a course.	• Classes of students are taught by a teacher who may be located in a different school division using the Internet. • The course environment is designed to provide student-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction
For which grades are courses available?	• 9 – 12	• 9 - 12
In which languages are courses offered?	• English • Français	• English • Français
What is the main resource that students use?	• Print courses specifically designed and developed to be completed independently OR. • PDF files available in the Blackboard Learning Management System. Registered students are given a username and password to access the course. • Supporting Audio/Video files are available on Youtube and may also be accessed through Blackboard.	• Online courses specifically designed and developed to be delivered in the Blackboard Learning Management System via the Internet.
How do students and their distance educators communicate?	• Students receive 1-to-1 support from their tutor/marker by email and telephone. • Tutor/markers may provide feedback through Blackboard Learn if assignments are submitted electronically.	• Students and teachers communicate through email, discussions, blogs, journals and assignments in the Blackboard environment. • They may also communicate through the telephone and other means.
How do students submit their assignments?	• Postal service • Blackboard Learn	• Assignment drop box tool in the Blackboard environment.
Do students need a textbook to complete the course?	• Some courses have no additional text book requirements and others may require additional textbooks.	• With the exception of ELA, students are not required to have access to a textbook.
Can students who are not enrolled in a school register in this option?	• Yes • ISO is suitable for students attending school, home schooling students and adult learners	• Possible, only if arrangements with a school that is teaching the course have been made.
Who grants the credit?	• Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning	• The school in which the student is enrolled.

	Independent Study Option (ISO)	Web-based Courses (WBC)
What are some characteristics of the learners enrolled in each option?	• Students in smaller, often rural high schools. • Students unable to take certain course due to timetable conflicts, or if it is not offered at all in their school, or not offered when they wish to take it. • Students attending school who need only a few credits to graduate. • Home schooling students • Adult learners who may or may not be attending an Adult Learning Centre • Students living outside of Manitoba • Students who cannot attend school for medical reasons. • Incarcerated students	• Students enrolled in and attending a regular high school • Learners registered in Adult Learning Centres (ALC)
How does a student gain access to this option?	• Registration via ISO office	• Talk with their school administrator to find out if this option is available • Registration and communication done by school officials or ALC
What is the title of the distance educator and how are they employed or contracted?	• Tutor/marker • Manitoba certified teacher is recruited by ISO • Remunerated on a fee-for-service basis by the Department	• Teacher • Manitoba certified teacher who is currently staffed by a school division or ALC as a regular classroom teacher
What is the role of the distance educator?	• Initiate contact with students • Provide tutoring • Assess learning	• Facilitate and manage student learning • Pace students • Assess learning • Moderate discussions, blogs and wikis • Communicate with school administration and parents
What is the level of student-to-student interaction?	• ISO is not designed for student-to-student interaction.	• Students may interact with other students via email, threaded discussions, and chat (if enabled)

What technology is required for students to participate	• Some courses require that students have access to:
	  · Computer
	  · Specialized software
	  · DVD
	• Internet access and a valid email account are required for students to use Blackboard Learn
		• Computer with Internet access
		• Most courses assume that students have access to Microsoft Office or compatible software
		• Some courses require specialized software that is provided to students
		• Adobe Reader, Flash Player, Shockwave Player, RealPlayer, QuickTime Player, Windows Media Player (or equivalent)

When can students begin and complete each course	• Students can begin and complete a course at any time. They are given up to one year to do so; this time can be extended	• Students complete a course during a regular academic semester or year
Cost per course	• $160 for a half credit • $180 for a full credit • Student/school pays	• No cost to school to access and use courses • Cost for students depend on arrangements made between the delivering and receiving schools/divisions