ONLINE LEARNING

Through the Office of Online Curriculum and Instruction, Oakton offers three types of distance learning courses: online live, online anytime and hybrid. Success in distance learning courses calls for a high level of motivation and the ability to work independently. Online anytime and hybrid courses offer students the flexibility of studying each week at a schedule, place, and time convenient for them, but require as much or more work than other types of courses.

The full range of student services is available for distance learning students remotely and in person at either campus, including the Office of Advising, Transitions and Student Success, the Library, and the Bookstore.

For more information, contact the Office of Online Curriculum and Instruction at 847.635.1971, onlinelearning@oakton.edu, or visit https://www.oakton.edu/academics/distance-and-online-learning/.

Online Courses

Online courses are delivered via the Internet and require the use of a computer with high-speed Internet access. Students may be required to come to campus for testing at the Testing Center, or exams and quizzes may be taken online. If travel to campus is required, but poses difficulties, arrangements can usually be made for off-site proctored testing.

Mobile WiFi hotspots and/or Chromebooks are available to students enrolled in credit classes to assist in their remote learning. Contact the IT helpdesk at 847.635.1965 or helpdesk@oakton.edu for more information and to borrow the equipment.

Online live courses

Online live courses are similar to in-person courses, except that they meet virtually using Zoom, Google Meet or Big Blue Button. Course materials and additional activities and assessment are located in a learning management system (LMS). Students can access the LMS through Oakton's website.

Online anytime courses

Students enrolled in Online anytime courses do not need to log into their courses at the same time each week, but may access their courses at any time via a learning management system (LMS). Students can access the LMS through Oakton's website. Through lectures, online communication, discussion forums, videos, web conferencing, and chat sessions, faculty and students experience the dynamic interaction found in in-person and online live courses.

Hybrid Courses

Hybrid courses combine in-person and online instruction, reducing on-campus class time. Classes meet regularly each week, but online activities typically make up about half of the course time.

Recommended hardware/software requirements

To have a rich learning experience, free of technical issues, it is recommended that online students have access to a computer with the following hardware and software requirements:

Screen Size

- A minimum of 1024 x 600

Operating Systems

- Microsoft® Windows® 7 or newer
- Mac OSX 10.6 or latest
- Linux chrome OS

Mobile Operating System Native App Support

- iOS X or newer
- Android 10 or latest

Computer Speed and Processor

- Use a computer 4 years old or newer
- 1 GB of RAM
- 2 GHz processor
- 100 GB of Hard drive

Internet Speed, Software, and Email

- Broadband, wireless high-speed internet connection such as DSL or cable
- Email account
- Internet Browser, such as Microsoft Edge, Firefox, and Google Chrome
- Basic software applications (Microsoft Office). If you don't want to purchase Microsoft Office, as a student with Oakton email address or any educational institution email address, you can download Microsoft Office 365 for free.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Up-to-date antivirus program

Assistive Technology Software

- Kurzweil 3000 (for Windows or Mac. Reads the Web for Chrome or Firefox. Has other great features)
- JAWS (for Windows 7 and newer. Works with the latest versions of Microsoft Office, Google Docs Internet Explorer 11, Edge, Firefox and Google Chrome)
- NVDA (for Windows 7 and newer. Supports for latest version of Firefox, Google Chrome and Microsoft office)
- VoiceOver (for Mac. Use VoiceOver to read text on Mac. Can be used to edit seamlessly in Grade 2 Braille and provides greater control while using a Mac)