

## What equipment do I need to take a Distance Education course?

This depends on the modality of the course you are enrolled into. If the course is fully **online** (D2L), you will need access to a computer that has an internet connection at home, work, or another location where regular use is possible. Typically a computer with an operating system (Windows or Mac) that is less than five years of age is capable of being used to do online course work. Media and graphics-intensive courses will likely require more up-to-date operating systems, memory capability, and processing speed. Broadband and fast internet telecommunication such as Optimum and Verizon offer the greatest convenience and flexibility; dial-up modems are quite challenged by modern online course activities and communication needs. Common software needs are typically Microsoft Office products (or free Open Office applications) for word processing, PowerPoint, and spreadsheets, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and up-to-date browsers such as Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Your instructor for each course will usually specify software needs and expectations for submitted work file formats, beyond basic computing described above. **Note:** A MySCCC portal account and a College email account are necessary to fully participate in any DE learning modality at SCCC.

If the course is **blended**, this means it will both meet on a campus at pre-determined times and places and will also have course work that is completed online. This means that you will need access to computing equipment and software for the duration of the semester/session, the same as when participating in a fully online course. Your instructor will inform you of meeting dates, work to be submitted online, and how to participate in a blended course that meets in a classroom and online.

Synchronous **Distance Learning Classroom** courses meet in specialized classrooms at two or more SCCC campuses, with the instructor often located remotely from students and lecturing via a camera and microphone with participation and interaction by students also by camera/microphone. Other than the teaching and learning environment which requires specialized equipment at each classroom location, students need no particular equipment for these types of live courses as the classes are essentially traditional on-campus meetings that use technology to bring different locations together, in real time, for purposes of instruction.