Mid-State Technical College
Nursing Programs

Frequently Asked Questions for Online classes

1. What does “online” mean? The term “online” refers to taking a course using the Internet. The student would access the course syllabus and requirements by using a computer that has access to the Internet. You do not need to own a computer but an online course requires that you check into the course every day or two. So you would need frequent access to a computer. Also problems may occur if you do not have high speed internet.

2. Are online courses for everyone? Typically, individuals who have been successful in online classes are students who have computer and Internet experience, who work well independently, and who are self directed and motivated. If you learn the best by participating with other students/faculty, or listening to other people discuss the content, and enjoy the interaction in a face to face classroom, an online class may not be the best option for you.

3. What is the difference between online and independent study? Online classes follow a set schedule with dates for tests, and dates that assignments are due. Independent study allows students to progress at their own pace with no specific schedule.

4. Do I need any special skills to take an online nursing class? Generally you should have good computer and Internet skills, as well as frequent access to a computer. You don’t have to have one at home, but you should have frequent access to a computer in order to keep up with your class. You should have knowledge of Microsoft WORD, because all assignments should be submitted in WORD. You should have good reading skills because you will get all of your information from reading. You should be self disciplined with good time management skills.

5. Can anybody take an online nursing course? No. You must be admitted to a WTCS nursing program, and meet the pre-requisites of the course.

6. If I am registered when can I access the online course? You will not have access to the course until the first day that the course is scheduled.

7. Once, I meet the requirements, can all of the nursing courses be taken online? No. Only the theory courses are available online. The lab and clinical courses must be completed on campus or a clinical site. Also you must complete all of 1st semester nursing courses before you can access any of the 2nd semester online courses. So it is not possible to take all of the theory courses and do clinical at a later time.

8. What is clinical? Clinical is the term that refers to a course that meets off campus at a hospital, clinic, nursing home or other health care site. In these clinical experiences students apply the nursing techniques learned in the theory courses and actually take care of patients.

9. Is there a specific sequence to these online nursing courses? Yes, the courses are developed so that a student would progress from introductory nursing knowledge to information that is more complex. Therefore, some courses are required before other courses. This means most
courses have pre-requisites. Also in the nursing program, students only get two attempts in a course. An online course is one attempt in the course.

10. If I am a student from another college, what do I need to do to register? You must be an enrolled nursing student at another WTCS in good academic standing. To register for an online nursing course at MSTC you will need to complete two things; 1) go to the MSTC website and register for the course that you want, and 2) get an email sent to Colleen Kane at Colleen.Kane@mstc.edu from your nursing dean/director stating that you are in good academic standing and that you have met the pre-requisites to be in that course.

11. How is the grading done in the online courses at MSTC? Approximately 65-70% of the grade in each online nursing course comes from tests. The rest of the grade comes from case studies, assignments and online discussions. There are usually 4 or 5 unit tests that are not proctored but they are timed and must be accessed using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. There are also usually a Midterm and Final exam for the online nursing courses that must be proctored. All MSTC nursing students will need to come to the Wisconsin Rapids campus to take the midterm and the final exam.

12. What is the passing percentage required to pass an online nursing course at MSTC? In order to successfully pass any nursing course, both online and face to face at MSTC, the student must achieve a test average of 80%, and also a total course average of 80%.