

# The Online Programs Newsletter

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## MU's EPPiIC Values

- Exploration
- Public Mission
- Professionalism
- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Compassion

Look for more details about our EPPiIC values in this and future newsletters.

## Greetings from the Director of Online Programs

This Summer seemed to fly by as we prepared for our Fall semester! We await colder weather on campus as our students begin their fall courses. To all new incoming students this fall, we wish you luck beginning your programs and your first semester courses.

This fall, we will be visiting local community colleges to meet our prospective students and increase the awareness of our online degree programs at Millersville. Look for us at our community colleges to stop by, meet our Admissions Counselor, and learn more about our online programs!

Looking ahead to the Spring, we are excited to launch our online Special



Education program in January 2024. We now offer 11 fully online undergraduate degree-completion programs in a variety of subject areas. We strive to offer new online programs each year for students to finish what they started and earn their bachelor's degrees online.

To all students taking online classes this fall, we hope your semester goes smoothly! Please reach out to the Office of Online programs for support and with any questions.

Rebecca Boyer  
Director of Online Programs

## Winter Session - Important Dates

Taking a course during the winter session is a great way to get caught up or get ahead of your academic plan.

Millersville offers options for online courses during the winter session.

On Monday, September 18 the web schedule will be available online. This will enable you to make plans for taking a winter class. If you are unsure what to take, please contact your advisor to discuss your options.

Winter registration opens on Wednesday, September 27.

Winter session starts Monday, December 11 and runs through Sunday, January 14.

## Meet the Emergency Management Coordinator

### What is your name and title?

Dr. Sepi Yalda. Professor of Meteorology, Director, Center for Disaster Research and Education, Coordinator of Emergency Management Programs

### How long have you been at MU and in what positions?

I have been at MU since the fall of 1997 as a faculty member in the meteorology program. Since the fall of 2009, I have also served as CDRE director and EM programs coordinator.

### Can you tell us about your family?

I am married and have a 17 year old son.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love to spend time with my family and

friends, read, walk and swim.

### What is your favorite course to teach?

My favorite course in the meteorology program is Radar Meteorology in the EM programs, the Natural Hazards Primer in the graduate program and the Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation for the undergraduate EM program.

### What do you like about working with the Online business students?

The online EM students come from a variety of educational backgrounds and many are working professionals. This is a diverse group that brings a lot of relevant background and experiences into each course enhancing the learning experiences for everyone. The online program provides a unique opportunity

for students to learn about the theoretical and practical applications of EM in an effective, flexible and accessible manner.

### Do you have any advice for our online students?

Even though the program is online, the faculty in the program are always happy and available to provide help related to courses, advisement, career advice and other opportunities in EM. We strongly encourage all students to reach out with any questions.

## Strategies for Successful Online Learning

### Set a schedule for completing and reviewing assignments.

Working on three courses at the same time can cause an individual to experience a high level of stress, but this can be avoided if you allocate specific times to work on each class. One example is working on one class between the hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This schedule allows students to create a type of structure often seen with traditional, in-person classes.

Most people end up either procrastinating or getting too involved that they won't shut (their computers) off.

Along with the time you set aside to complete assignments, it's also suggested to have a set time to look over the tasks for every one of your classes so that you can set up an agenda for each week. In doing this, you won't mistakenly forget to turn something in.

**“Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.”**

**-Nelson Mandela**

## EPPICC: Professionalism



diverse community of learners is com-

Millersville University is founded on a tradition of academic excellence, expert knowledge and professional collegiality. Our

prised of skilled and dedicated educators and staff who model maturity of thought and practice while exhibiting mutual respect. The University provides opportunities for professional development and growth, especially for our students, using academic enhancement and collaborative pro-

grams to emphasize the importance of critical thinking, active listening, self-discovery, collaborative leadership and responsibility. Such professionalism fosters career readiness and preparation for lives of service and success in the global community.

## New OP Program: Special Education

The Office of Online Programs recently added another new program to our offerings. In addition to existing programs, we are now offering a degree completion program in Special Education.

Millersville University's PK-12 Special Education is taught by knowledgeable faculty with extensive expertise in the range of exceptionalities and ages. Furthermore, this program benefits from the contribution of colleagues in diverse fields such as literacy, EL, and

educational psychology.

PK-12 schools nationwide experience an ongoing need for qualified special educators. Students enrolled in Millersville University's PK12 Special Education program will acquire the skills to fulfill and thoroughly address the needs of students with disabilities in multiple settings.

This program also offers unique educational experi-

ences beyond the classroom including internships with local organizations and extensive and diverse field study opportunities. Graduates receive their Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.E.) and are eligible for Pennsylvania teaching certification in Special Education, Grades PK-12.



## Resources for Online Students

As a student of Millersville's Online Programs, you do have access to a variety of academic and student support services throughout your program. These are in place to assist you along a challenging and formative experience here at Millersville University.

### STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

All online undergraduate students will be assigned a Student Support Spe-

cialist who will assist them throughout their program with any and all non-advisement questions. Your Student Support Specialist will automatically register you for all major courses during your program. Please feel free to reach out to your Student Support Specialist at any point!

### WRITING CENTER SERVICES

The Writing Center is a valuable resource for your paper-writing and

editing needs. The Writing Center offers a combination of free in-person and/or online tutoring, depending on your needs.

For in-person sessions, you may either schedule ahead for 30-minute in-person appointments or simply walk-in for first-come, first-served service at McNairy Library, Room 106.

For online tutoring or more information, visit the Writing Center website or call 717-871-7389.

## Taking a Leave of Absence

Life is making it difficult to keep up with your online classes. Maybe it is an illness, an upcoming wedding or a big project at work. What should you do?

1. Do not just stop attending classes. After a semester of taking no classes, your status will be changed to Inactive due to Walkaway. If this happens, you will need to re-

apply when you are ready to return to classes.

2. Notify Online Programs that you need to take a Leave of Absence. You can take up to a 1-year LOA.
3. Complete the Withdrawal/Leave of Absence From the University form, found online at [https://www.millersville.edu/registrar/files/studentforms/loa-wd-](https://www.millersville.edu/registrar/files/studentforms/loa-wd-form.pdf)

[form.pdf](#)

4. Please make sure to note when you will be returning to classes.
5. Return the completed form to Online Programs for processing.

## Office of Online Programs

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Millersville's Online Programs are designed for adult learners who wish to complete their degree. We offer degree completion programs in the following programs:

- Bachelor's in Business Administration
- Bachelor's in Public Relations
- Bachelor's in Design in Interactive & Graphic Design
- Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor's in Special Education
- Bachelor's in Emergency Management
- Bachelor's in English with a Writing Studies Concentration
- Bachelor's in Marketing
- Bachelor's in Management
- Bachelor's in Nursing
- Bachelor's in Social Work

We're on the web:  
[Millersville.edu/onlineprograms](http://Millersville.edu/onlineprograms)

## Meet the OP Staff - Madison Sears



**What is your name & title?** Madison Sears, Online Programs Student Support Specialist

**How many years have you been at MU? Have**

**you always been in this position?** 1.5yrs, always in this position although I have worked with previous universities online students including St. Ambrose University and Kings University.

**What is your background/schooling?** I spent my first year of college fresh out of high school at Wilson College before realizing it was not the best for my son and I to be living

at a college. After getting a job at PHEAA helping students with financial aid and a few years, I decided to start working towards my associate degree at HACC taking as many of my classes online as possible due to having a family that took a lot of my time. I graduated with my associates from HACC in May of 2014. After taking some time off I then started working towards my bachelor's completely online in 2016 at Concordia University St Paul and went part time, completing my bachelors in 2019.

**Can you tell us about your family?** I am a single mom of 3 great kids. My oldest has graduated high school, volunteers at the local fire department, and is working to decide what career will best fit him. My middle is a busy typical teenager who loves baseball, football, and anything else he can get involved with to make sure we never get bored. My youngest loves swim-

ming, animals, reading and is a true tomboy with a little princess thrown in for good measure. All 3 are completely different but are my world and I wouldn't change anything.

**What do you like about working with Online Programs and its students?** Since I did not take the traditional route to get my degree, I feel I can connect with the online students and understand how hard it can be juggling school along with family and work. I understand how hard these students have to work and take pride in knowing I am helping other people get their degree and better their futures.

**Do you have any advice for our online students?** Even if it seems impossible keep pushing through. There may be late nights and long hours studying but never give up, it will be worth it in the end. An education and a degree are something no one can ever take away from you.