

# The Online Programs Newsletter

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## Greetings from the Director of Online Programs

We welcome students returning to classes as well as those beginning online programs this fall! Students can visit us and meet with our Admissions Counselor this fall at local community college transfer fairs beginning soon this fall semester. We are excited to launch the new RN to BSN concurrent enrollment program for active HACC

students completing HACC's AS in Nursing program. This new initiative allows active HACC nursing students to complete their ASN at HACC and BSN at MU simultaneously. Interested HACC students should contact us for more information!

We wish all students taking online classes this fall good luck as we dive into the fall semester. We

hope your courses go smoothly and expand your education. As always, online students should reach out to the Office of Online Program with any questions and for support throughout their online programs.

Rebecca Boyer  
Director of Online Programs



## MU's EPPIC Values

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

## Online Programs Has Moved

Online Programs is no longer under the College of Graduate Studies and Adult Learning umbrella. This summer we became part of Enrollment Management (Admissions).

Not only did our organiza-

tional structure change, but our physical location has changed as well.

We are no longer housed in Lyle Hall, but can now be found in the Lombardo Welcome Center.

Please be assured these

changes will not effect how we do "business". We are still here to assist you as you complete your degree. You will not notice a difference in our day-to-day functions. We remain committed to ensuring your success.

## Tips for Online Schooling Success

### 1. Treat Your Classes Like an In-Person Course

One of the very best strategies you can use to approach your online education is to treat it just like you would an in-person class. Watch class videos and complete all coursework promptly, rather than waiting until the last minute. Pay close attention to deadlines and follow the syllabus closely—you don't have the in-person structure that provides these kinds of reminders, so you have to take responsibility for that yourself. Additionally, interacting and participating in as many course-related activities can be very beneficial and help boost your learning experience.

### 2. Create a Dedicated Study Space & Time

Anyone working from home can tell you they are more productive when they have a designated office and workspace. The same holds true for

students learning at home. Your study space area should be free of distractions and have everything you need to study and complete coursework. Then, when you are done with schoolwork, you can walk away until the next day. Having a separate space that you use every day only for schoolwork can help you tune in for work each day.

It's a good idea to have specific markers for study time—dedicated space is one of those markers. But also try small habits, rituals, or routines that you do before you get to work, much like you would when preparing for a day of in-person classes. For example, you could change out of your pajamas, wash your face, and light a scented candle before you start your schoolwork. Define your space and time between class and the rest of your life.

### 3. Eliminate Distractions

In addition to creating a designated study space, get rid of distractions,

including everything from social media to movies and new video games to others in the home. This can be more challenging for some, but the more you can eliminate those distractions, the more you can focus on your studies.

### 4. Find a Virtual Study Group

Get to know your classmates and see if there are any virtual study groups. If not, work with other students and create one. Additionally, the school or a school counselor can help get you in contact with other students who have a study group established. Having other people to study with can help keep you accountable, and make the learning experience more enjoyable.

It's especially important for online students to seek out opportunities to engage with other students, as it can be isolating if you are doing it all on your own. Study groups are a great way to socialize and get help when you need it.

## MU's Homecoming 2024 - A Great Time to Visit Campus

Our campus will be buzzing with activity on the weekend of September 20-21 as we celebrate Homecoming. This is a great opportunity for our online students to come to campus and embrace our school spirit. While the events start on Friday, most of the celebration will take place on Saturday, September 21.

The day's festivities start with our annual parade at 8:30am. This year's parade theme is Dinosaurs, Dragons and Mythical Creatures. Students, staff and the surrounding community will line the streets of Millersville for

this fun-filled event.

After the parade, from 10:00-2:00, browse the Maker's Market & Skully Shoppes in 'Ville Courts of the SMC. This market will include over 100 vendors offering unique crafts, goods and treats, with a special section dedicated to our talented student entrepreneurs at the Skully Shoppes.

After shopping at the Maker's Market, stroll down to East Frederick Street for the 'Ville Block Party & Food Truck Experience.

Jump on the Homecoming Trolley

Tours for a guided journey through campus and the surrounding community.

Top your day off at Biemsderfer Stadium as our Marauder football team takes on IUP at the Homecoming Game.

For more information, visit: <https://www.millersville.edu/alumni/homecoming/>.



## Meet the Writing Coordinator

### What is your name and title?

Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel, Associate Professor of Digital Media. I work in English & World Languages Department.

### How long have you been at MU?

The 2024-2025 Academic Year is my 9th at Millersville University!

### Can you tell us about your family?

My husband and I are originally from Arizona. I was born and raised in the Phoenix area, my husband moved to Flagstaff when he was 9. We attended Northern Arizona University as undergraduates, then I completed all my graduate work at Arizona State University. We have one son, Marshall. He started 7th grade this year. He is a huge fan of all things manga and Pokémon. We travel back to Arizona once every other year to visit our parents. We also have siblings in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Florida.

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

When the weather is nice, I really enjoy gardening. I have tomatoes, cucumbers, blueberries, strawberries, pepper, and rose bushes. I also have tons of houseplants. Most of my plants are typical houseplants, but I do have a few herbs indoors as well. I really like a combination of decorative and food. I want to try winter tomatoes in a sun room - this will be my grand experiment this winter. In addition to gardening, I am an avid reader. I finish anywhere from 80 to 100 books a year. This is helped by my son's schedule of piano lessons and sports camps - I read while I watch or wait. Finally, I love to knit and craft. I'm working on winter hats since the cooler weather is coming. But I also love to make jewelry and decorative items.

### How did you get interested in English & Writing and teaching it?

I started graduate school as a non-degree student, taking classes to decide what I wanted to study for my Master's. My undergraduate degrees are in Psychology and Communications - so I completed a graduate course in Rhetorical Theory. While I loved rhetorical theory, the communication approach didn't quite fit for me, I felt a bit disconnected from the findings and research focuses. I

then completed an English class in Pop Culture, which drew from rhetorical theory to understand how we use writing to build and share culture. I was hooked. I knew from that class, I wanted to apply to the English MA program.

In Rhetoric and Composition programs, the theories typically involve first year writing classes and first year writing programs. There is always a teaching component - but it's mixed with general education, accreditation assessment, and shared assignments to support learning to write. As I learned these theories, I wanted to practice teaching so I took a job working for the IQ Abacus Math & Language School, teaching Saturday cram school classes to K-6th graders. The owners felt my high energy levels would be really supportive of the kindergartners enrolled in their Saturday school, so I started with a 1 hour class of Kindergartners and a 1 hour class of 4th graders. It was amazing, the kids were amazing. I learned so much about what writing growth looks like in learners. Working with kids for over 4 years taught me so much about teaching.

I moved on to teach at a community college while I finished my doctoral degree. I first taught online at Mesa Community College about 15 years ago. There are so many important ways community colleges support their communities - providing access to affordable education, with a variety of class formats and class offerings to meet learner needs. I fell in love with online teaching working with community college students. This work influenced my dissertation topic, I wrote about and researched

online composition course design.

TL;DR it started with a not-quite-right-fitting rhetoric class, included teaching 5 year olds, and grew into a dissertation topic at a community college!

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

I like that online courses provide access to students on their schedules, and allows students to take classes that suit their needs. I was a double major in my undergrad, walking a mile in 15 minutes to get between classes so I could fulfill all my requirements. I loved school - but balancing the courses with a spread out campus and a work schedule was a lot. Today, students can reduce some of that stress with course scheduling by including an online course. Every semester I see students that are grateful for the ways they can fit the online course into their lives, to meet their graduation needs.

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

I highly recommend all online students reach out to their advisor and faculty members with basic introductions. It doesn't have to be anything huge, but share something about yourself with us. When we see opportunities like scholarships, grants, and funding cross our desk - we then know who to make aware of those opportunities. This is one of my favorite things about MU - we have a lot of opportunities for students. When we know our students, we can connect them with so many amazing experiences to enrich their undergraduate experience. All it takes is an email!

## On-Campus Fall Job & Internship Fair

Date: October 1st, 2024

Time: 11:30am - 2:30pm

Location: SMC - Ville Courts 1,2 & 3

Sponsor: Career Center,

The Fall Fair will be held on October 1, 2024 from 11:30AM- 2:30PM and registration is open to students and employers!

Millersville University's Job & Intern-

ship Fairs are held in the 'Ville Courts and are open to Millersville students and alumni. The Fair features over 150 employers seeking Millersville students and alumni for internship and full-time employment opportunities.

For questions, contact Shelly Cauthen at [careers@millersville.edu](mailto:careers@millersville.edu) or (717) 871-7655

## Office of Online Programs

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

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

## Handshake: Student Career Management Platform

All MU students have access to use Handshake, our comprehensive career management platform, to make appointments with staff, to access employer contacts, jobs, and internship opportunities, and to register for job fairs, events, and employer interviews.

As a student on Handshake, you get a personalized opportunity to:

- Access more than 10,000 jobs and internships currently posted in Millersville's Handshake platform
- Experience a simple job search

with many customizable options to find the right jobs and internships for you

- Save job searches and companies and choose to be notified when new jobs are posted matching your preferences
- Be notified of upcoming job and interview deadlines
- Apply for jobs directly through Handshake with the click of a button
- Connect with hundreds of top

employers

- See employer reviews from other students
- Register for job fairs, information sessions, and other recruiting and campus events
- Schedule on-campus appointments and interviews

For instructions for accessing and using Handshake, visit <https://www.millersville.edu/careercenter/handshake/students>.

