

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

Warmer weather brings the end in sight for our spring semester! As we look ahead to the summer months, we want to reflect on our existing online programs as well as new changes coming soon. We always strive to offer online degree completion programs where students find both challenge and fulfillment in professional development and academic achievement.

We are excited to launch our new fully online undergraduate degrees in Early Childhood Education and Public Relations this Fall 2023. We continue to add new online programs each year to expand our online

degree program offerings and provide additional pathways for online students to earn their degrees in a more convenient format.

We hope you enjoy reading this first edition of our Online Programs Newsletter. As the demand and needs continue to grow and change for online programs at Millersville, we will continue to adapt while remaining consistent with our assistance and service to our online students and faculty.



As always, please reach out to us in the Online Programs Department with any questions!

Rebecca Boyer

Fall Classes Start Date

Before we know it, we will be starting the Fall 2023 semester. Classes start on August 21.

You can check your degree audit or Max account to confirm the classes for

which you have been registered .

Remember, the OP staff registers you for your major requirements. If you need to take gen eds or electives, you will need to

register yourself for those classes.

If you are a new Online Programs student, make sure you complete the orientation on D2L for your program before August 21.

Meet the Business Administration Coordinator

What is your name and title?

Dr. David DiRusso - Professor of Marketing and Chair of Management/Marketing Department

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

I've been at MU since 2008 as a faculty member. I've served as department chair for several years since then. I also started the BSBA online program in 2018 and BS in Marketing in 2021 and have been leading them since.

Can you tell us about your family?

I live with my wife and children in Phoenixville PA and grew up in that area as well.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I'm a big Philly sports fan, especially of the Eagles, and try to watch as much as possible with my friends and family! I live near multiple parks as well so I spend time hiking, playing outdoors with my kids and really enjoy teaching them how to play sports. I've also been playing guitar since I was 15 and am always challenging myself to get better at it!

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

I love that our online programs attract so many different students in many different stages of life and careers. This diversity of experience our online students have creates compelling discussions in

our classes that everyone benefits from. I really enjoy talking to students about their work and their plans for advancement when they are finished their degree!

Do you have any advice for our online students?

Go at the pace that works for you and reach out if you need help! Every student is in a different situation and life happens. It can be daunting to think about making progress towards a degree when you're managing changes in your job or at home, but keep in mind our program is built for students who have a lot going on! We can adapt your path to graduation based on your situation so please let us know what you need to be successful.

Strategies for Successful Online Learning

Engage with instructors, classmates and course materials.

It might seem like a given—after all, you're here to learn, right?—but without a physical place to go to, many students have trouble getting into learning mode. This is why it's important for online students to make a concerted effort to engage with the course in as many ways as possible.

"Engage with your classmates and instructors," says Renee Rosales,

founder of Theara®. "Whether it's posting on the class message board, speaking up on the virtual session or just introducing yourself."

The more ties you can create between the coursework and your own schedule, the better.

And while it may seem obvious, just taking some time at the beginning of a course to explore assigned readings and review the course syllabus is a common step many students forget.

"Education is our passport to the future; for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

-Malcolm X

EPPIIC: Exploration

Millersville University embraces a culture of exploration, creating a dynamic learning environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, creative intelligence, innovation, forward-thinking ideas and exciting



discoveries. Exploration serves as an intentional way to strengthen University culture. We place a high value on student-faculty research, scholarship and collaborative projects.

As an Online student, you are embracing this EPPIIC value. The continuation of your education as an Online student is an exploration into your field of study and where your degree can take you in that field.

Keep Exploring!

New OP Programs

The Office of Online Programs recently added two new programs to our offerings. In addition to existing programs, we are now offering degree completion programs in Public Relations and Early Childhood Education.

The Public Relations program at Millersville University allows students to gain professional skills in writing, research and campaign planning for work in agencies, corporations and nonprofit environments. Students collaborate on projects as they learn ethi-

cal communication principles and practices to build their expertise.

Millersville's online Early Childhood Education program provides an exemplary program for undergraduate students in education, connecting content and pedagogy with authentic experiences in diverse school settings and up-



holding high standards for professional and civic conduct.

The program is designed to provide an in-depth knowledge of subject matter and appropriate knowledge of pedagogy to teach pre-kindergarten to grade 4. Students who complete the early childhood education program at MU receive a Bachelor of Science in Education degree and may apply for a PA Instructional I teaching certificate.

Key for Summer Session Success

Since summer classes take only a few weeks, preparing and staying organized is important. You wouldn't want to find yourself stranded in the middle of the semester since there's not much time to set things right. Every day in the summer class counts.

Make sure you know what to expect throughout the class so that you can plan for assignments and the exam. Some organization and planning tips include:

Familiarizing yourself with the course syllabus and all the necessary materials – most colleges will give syllabi and expected course material a week before the summer class commences.

Finding a planner or calendar to mark all important dates, deadlines, and assignments.

Connecting with classmates and communicating with them regularly about class progress, deadlines, and assign-

ments.

Having a weekly schedule for class expectations, such as dates and deadlines.

“Every day in a summer class counts.”

Summer Wellness Tips



1 - Stay hydrated

Ensure to drink lots of water during

these hotter months. You should aim to drink at least 8 glasses of water a day.

2 - Catch some vitamin D

Summer is the time to increase your Vitamin D levels. A rough guide is that 15-30 minutes in the sun is adequate exposure to produce Vitamin D.

3 - Get outdoors

Spending too much time indoors, something we're all probably guilty of, is unhealthy for the body, mind, and spirit.

4 - Daily exercise

Hiking, biking, and cycling are all great ways to feel the burn and get your heart rate up.

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Business Tagline or Motto

We're on the web:
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 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

Meet the OP Staff—Director Rebecca Boyer



What is your name & title? Rebecca Boyer, Director of Online Programs

How many years have

you been at MU? Have you always been in this position? I have been at Millersville in the Online Programs Department for the past 6 years, first as the Online Programs Admissions Counselor and more recently as the Director of Online Programs. I have been Director for one year.

What is your background/

schooling? Before my time at Millersville, I previously worked for The Learning House, Inc.- an online education solutions partner that helps colleges and universities develop and grow high-quality online degree programs and courses. I worked as an Enrollment Counselor and then Enrollment Manager assisting colleges across the country with online program enrollments. I completed my MA in Leadership and Management at Concordia University St. Paul in 2018 and my BA in Media Arts & Design at James Madison University in 2012.

Can you tell us about your family? I currently live with my husband and two young children (5 and 3 years old) along with our family pets.

What do you like about working with Online Programs and its students? I really enjoy working with our non-traditional online students to help them finish a degree they started or obtain their undergraduate degree. Our online students are motivated and we enjoy interacting with and helping them through the process of completing their degrees.

Do you have any advice for our online students? Make sure to balance your time well to stay on track and still have personal and family time. Don't be afraid to reach out to us with any questions. We are here to help you throughout the whole process!