Academic Affairs Policy

Assuring Student Readiness for Online Learning

Effective September 2012

Policy

Ferris State University is committed to assuring students' success in online[1] courses while maximizing instructional time within specific courses. Each student who enrolls for an online course will be required to demonstrate his/her proficiency in performing the minimum functions associated with effective participation in online courses. Proficiency demonstration must be completed before the student begins an online course. Minimum expectations will be prominently displayed and regularly updated on the Online Learning website at www.ferris.edu/onlinelearning.

Policy

Procedures and systems for implementation of the policy will evolve over time, beginning with a pilot in Summer 2012 that will inform future processes.

1. Students planning to enroll in an online class will be required to take an online learning module that would demonstrate proficiency using Current Online Learning System for an online course.
2. An online learning website will contain updated informational links students can use to acquire the required skills that must be demonstrated, along with suggestions and resources for developing these skills independently or in group settings.
3. As soon as the student has accomplished the Current Online Learning System learning module successfully, said student would be approved for online courses in the Current Online Learning System. If said student misses two consecutive semesters or more using an online course delivered in Current Online Learning System, it is highly recommended that they retake the associated online learning module.
4. Each year, the university will review its standards for documenting students' readiness for online learning, with a goal of continuing to enhance effectiveness and efficiency.
5. Even though the policy will be in effect starting the fall of 2012, the systems will be further developed throughout 2012, meaning that not all Ferris students enrolled for online courses will necessarily have demonstrated the required abilities before the Fall Semester of 2013.
6. To the extent possible, proficiency in the Current Online Learning System will be integrated into existing requirements for future students.

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[1] Online course at Ferris indicates a course where all instruction is offered through the course management system and no face-to-face time is required. On occasion, an instructor may incorporate a required or optional meeting. Other terms used to classify delivery modes are "face-to-face" and "blended." Blended courses include both online and face-to-face instruction in varying proportions from course to course.