The ABCs of Online Learning

Access—Be sure you have GOOD internet access.
Book—If there is a book that goes with the class, read it!
Communicate—Ask the teacher questions, email other classmates, ask for an alternative way to communicate such as the discussion board or a back-channel.
Dedicate—You have to find a time each week to work on your online assignments or it can be easy to fall behind.
Explore—The teacher found all those great resources for the class. Go look at them!
Friend—Expand your personal and professional learning network by “friending” classmates on social networking sites.
Go out on a limb—Take a stab at something new, or try a new way to do a presentation, or think WAY outside of the box!
Help others—Offer advice and assistance to classmates who seem to be struggling.
Interact—Email other members of the class and post discussion topics to the discussion board.
Join in the conversation—Let your voice be heard even if you are the ONLY math person, or library media specialist, or whatever.
Keep to a schedule—This does not always work, but give it a good college try. A planned time to do your online work each week can be a lifesaver!
Log in on a regular basis—Lots can happen in a week online, so check in to the course and your email a few times per week.
Meet others in your class—Use the functions of the class management system to meet in chat rooms or on the discussion board or through email.
Network—Get to know the people in your online class who teach the same grade or subject as you. There is nothing better than having teacher friends to call upon when you need new ideas.
Organize—Be sure to allow time to organize your online learning. Find a time and place you will do your online work each week. This needs to be a place where you can work uninterrupted with good internet connections.
Plan—To be a successful online student you really have to have a time PLANNED to work on your assignments including doing background reading, research, writing, and proof-reading.
Question—Ask questions of the teacher/professor.
Read—Yes, really, read the directions, the assignments, the ideas shared by the professor and your classmates.
Share—Did you find a great resource in doing one of the assignments? Share it with the class. The professor likes to hear from you, too!
Think—The resources that are selected for the classes are there for a reason. Think about them, digest them, agree or disagree with them.
Understand—The professor also has a “real life,” so be understanding if every assignment isn’t graded one hour after you submit it.
Variety—As an online student, you should expect a variety of activities including readings and papers, but also multimedia and group projects.
Write—You will get to know both your classmates and professor if you write on the discussion board and emails. It is the currency of communication in an online class.
Examples—Pay attention to the examples the professor gives. There is a reason they are there!
Yearn—Just because you “meet” online and when it is convenient for you doesn’t mean that you can’t yearn to know more.
Zoom—Learn to zoom in and focus on the assignment and its assessment. If the directions are not clear to you, ask the for more information.
You’re Invited! Homecoming BBQ & Bluegrass

Alumni and students, as well as current and former faculty and staff, from the Julia S. Tutwiler School of Education, the Graduate School and the Division of Online Programs will celebrate Homecoming 2010 with BBQ and Bluegrass on the lawn behind the Moon House October 16.

A Birmingham-based band, Shades Mountain Air was recently voted one of the top five local bands in the Magic City by a poll conducted on myFoxAL.com.

The Birmingham News had this to say about Shades Mountain Air ... “A mix of bluegrass, newgrass, gospel, originals and occasional parodies...well-blended vocals and lots of energy. Basically suburban folk with rural roots...a good time.”

Jc’s BBQ of Demopolis will be catering the food, which promises to be a mouth-watering treat.

In addition to great food and music, door prizes will also highlight the festivities, which get underway at 11:45 a.m. Alumni and students will have an opportunity to win a flip video Camcorder, UWA 175th Anniversary gear and stuffed animal Tigers.

Please RSVP by October 8 to Mary Grace Edmonds at mgedmonds@uwa.edu or by calling 205.652.3865.

BBQ and Bluegrass, there is definitely something about this place.

American, US Air Take UWA Online Skyward

The Division of Online Programs will take to the skies and an airport near you in January and February 2011.

An interview with UWA President Dr. Richard Holland is scheduled to air on Talk Business channels for both American Airlines and U.S. Airways during January and February, reaching a potential 11.7 million listeners.

Four 15-second commercials featuring UWA Online are scheduled to air multiple times on more than 2,200 screens across 48 major airports in America on the CNN Airport Network.

UWA joins higher education institutions such as Arizona State, Colorado State, Duke, Penn State, Pepperdine and Purdue that have been featured.

Companies such as Bank of America, Burger King, Dun & Bradstreet, FedEx, Hilton Hotels, Hyatt Hotels, Microsoft, Nissan, Ritz Carlton, Subway and Toys R’ Us have also been featured.

Barger Joins UWA Online Advisor Staff

Alumna Libba Barger has joined the University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs staff as an advisor. Dr. Martha Hocutt, Dean of the Division of Online Programs at UWA, brought Barger on board to begin her new role on September 20.

A 2008 Summa Cum Laude graduate of the Julia S. Tutwiler College of Education in Early Childhood/Elementary Education, she also earned the Ralph E. Lyon Award for Academic Excellence.

Barger had been teaching 5th grade at Sumter Academy in Livingston, Ala., prior to accepting her new position at UWA. In addition to her teaching duties, Barger was the Accelerated Reading chairperson, yearbook advisor, SACS Committee Chairperson, AISA Blue Ribbon Committee Chairperson and cheerleading coach. She organized the school science fairs and district art shows as well.

Libba Barger
Online Advisor
Harwell and Dr. Mae Daniel of UWA collaborated on an abstract for *E-International Journal of Education Research* on preschool teachers meeting the needs of students following critical incidents, while she also collaborated with Dr. Sallie Harper from Mississippi State-Meridian on a paper for *Academic Leadership The Online Journal* on effective strategies and methods used to teach mathematics. Harwell and Dr. Jenifer Moore of the University of Montevallo had another study published in *Academic Leadership The Online Journal* on issues related to practicum experiences.

A sampling of 11 presentations in 2010 included “Kindergarten Phonics” and “Early Literacy K-5” at UWA. Collaborative presentations included “Hurricane Katrina; Teaching Traumatized Children” with Dr. Mae Daniel at ICERI, “Get the Best Out of Stressed” with Dr. Barry Green-Burns at NCaeyc, “Teacher Burnout: Keeping Your Head Above Water” with Green-Burns and Daniel at the NC Head Start Annual Training Conference, “Students as Test Creators” with Dr. Denise Knight at the Texas A&M 10th Annual Assessment Conference.

A York, Ala. native, Williams comes to UWA after serving the previous five years as a Field Services Representative with the Black Belt Community Foundation in Selma. Williams managed a roster of over 100 community volunteers and over $600,000 of grant funding to over 200 organizations.

Florence Williams is scheduled to complete her MSCE, Guidance and Counseling, through the UWA Division of Online Programs in December 2010.

Florence Williams on Board as Advisor October 4

Florence Williams will be joining the UWA Division of Online Programs staff as an advisor beginning October 4. Dr. Martha Hocutt, dean of the Division of Online Programs at UWA, said that although all online advisors work with students in each discipline, Williams will serve as the liaison to the College of Business and a primary contact with students in the online undergraduate business degree programs.

Online Fun Fact

The UWA Division of Online Programs started in 2002 with 12 students. That number has now increased by just over 120,000 percent.
The University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs is your convenient, affordable and practical choice for online learning.

UWA Online offers 20 Master’s and Education Specialist degrees, as well as baccalaureate degrees in accounting, business technology and business administration *completely* online.

The University of West Alabama, 175 years of enriching lives.

UWA Online ... the first click of the rest of your life!

1.877.UWA.1835

If you are not a member of the UWA all online list serve and no longer want to receive this newsletter via email please click here to state your intentions.

Dr. Barry Green-Burns represented UWA Online at the Louisiana Counseling Association Convention in New Orleans.

**Where We’re Headed …**

- Oct. 7-9 NCAEYC
  - Durham, NC
- Oct. 13 Hinds CC
  - Raymond, MS
- Oct. 14 Holmes CC
  - Goodman, MS
- Oct. 28-29 NCTM
  - New Orleans, LA
- Nov. 3-5 SC 2
  - Myrtle Beach, SC
- Nov. 4-6 SC SCA
  - Greenville, SC
- Nov. 4-9 ASCSA
  - Panama City, FL
- Nov. 16-18 ASC
  - Birmingham, AL
- Dec. 2-4 NSTA
  - Nashville, TN

**Been There Recently**

- Alabama Library Expo; Mobile, Montgomery, Bessemer, Tuscaloosa, Scottsboro
- Mississippi LAMP: Tupelo, Batesville, Jackson, Hattiesburg
- NAS Education Fair
  - Meridian, MS
- Keesler AFB Education Fair
  - Biloxi, MS
- Maxwell AFB Education Fair
  - Montgomery, AL
- AHSAA All-Star Week
  - Huntsville, AL
- ASCA
  - Greenville, SC
- ASCA
  - Boston, MA
- African American Librarians
  - Birmingham, AL
- ISTE
  - Denver, CO