The University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs and Financial Aid Office are hosting one of several College Goal Sunday events scattered throughout Alabama during the month of February. UWA will host morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday, February 19.

College Goal Sunday provides assistance in applying for financial aid to families who need it. By delivering help to families in their own communities, College Goal Sunday helps ensure that students get the help they need crossing the paper barrier to qualify for financial aid.

Most students and families need assistance in paying for higher education expenses. The FAFSA is the gateway to accessing financial aid resources, which include school loans. Secondly, a family’s situation may change at some point during the school year resulting in a major reduction in income. If the FAFSA has been filed in a timely manner, adjustments can be made as long as the filing deadline has not been missed.

In addition to the UWA site, being coordinated by Division of Online Programs Dean Dr. Martha Hocutt, there are also sites scheduled for Birmingham, Bessemer, Tuscaloosa and Jacksonville. The UWA site will also offer free income tax preparation on site for parents ready to complete the FAFSA.
Why Choose UWA Online?

Convenience, Quality & Affordability Make UWA Online Destination for Graduate & Baccalaureate Programs

Convenience
You know best about how, when and where you want to earn your degree. How you earn it is up to you as well through UWA Online.

There are no residency requirements for UWA Online students, whether they are graduate or undergraduate. You don’t even have to come to campus to take your comprehensive exams. However, you are very welcome to come to campus for graduation ceremonies. Coursework can be completed in the privacy of your home or office at times that are convenient to you. There are no overcrowded classrooms, no lost time commuting or rigid class schedules to contend with. You earn your degree your way.

Graduates of UWA’s Online Master’s Degree certificate programs in education are eligible for a reciprocal certificate based on either the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification’s (NASDTEC) Interstate Contract or UWA’s National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredited programs. The interstate agreement facilitates the licensure of educators from one state to another, although additional requirements may apply in some states. UWA programs are reciprocal with many states through the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Contract. Provided you live in one of the reciprocating states, you should be eligible for certification in your state if you complete one of these certification degree programs in Alabama.

UWA online courses are asynchronous, which means you work at your chosen time of the day. UWA Online offers five terms per year, as opposed to the traditional three terms offered to on-campus students. Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, Spring 2, and Summer sessions are accelerated in eight-week blocks.

Blackboard E-Education is the platform on which our courses are housed. Many faculty members employ Tegrity to further enhance the student experience. Tegrity Campus is a highly-scalable, cloud-based lecture capture service that lets institutions automatically capture every class – on and off campus – for later review by every student, anytime, anywhere. Turnitin.com is also utilized by students and faculty to ensure originality of work submitted. In the spring of 2009, UWA Online implemented the use of the Remote Proctor system to provide an additional method to monitor students.

Quality
The University of West Alabama is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and education specialist degrees (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, 404-679-4501).

The Julia Tutwiler College of Education is also NCATE accredited and the UWA College of Business is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

The UWA Online faculty includes six national board certified professors and 90 percent of the Online faculty hold terminal degrees. Course work and lectures are designed and presented by experienced faculty members who are also members of the UWA traditional campus faculty. Online students at UWA are getting the same course work and presentation afforded to traditional classroom students on campus.

The College of Education employs a practical experience model for master’s and education specialist programs where teachers are able to take what they have experienced in class and implement it immediately into their classrooms.

Affordability
The UWA Division Of Online Programs offers graduate degrees and undergraduate degrees completely online at very competitive prices. There is no out-of-state tuition for UWA Online students.

Tuition for baccalaureate online degrees from the UWA College of Business is $371 per credit hour, or $1,113 per course.

Tuition for graduate degrees is $413 per credit hour, or $1,239 per class.

Federal grants and loans, private loans and scholarships are available depending on your course of study, including assistance for active military. The UWA Financial Aid Office can also advise you about the latest requirements and regulations for Veterans’ Benefits. Online is DANTES and VA approved. Find out more about paying for your online education today!

Online Spotlight: Dr. Mae Daniel

Mae Daniel, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Elementary Education for Online Programs at UWA.

She received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education from William Carey College and a Doctor of Philosophy from Walden University with endorsements in Elementary Education, Reading, Special Education, and Early Childhood.

As a professional, Daniel has presented at numerous state and national conferences. Among those are the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Conference, the American Institute of Higher Education, North Carolina Head Start Conference, and the Alabama Counseling Association.


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Stewart Moves to Info Systems Position

After serving as an online advisor for the University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs for the last three years, Christa Stewart has moved to a new position with UWA Information Systems. The move was effective January 5, 2011.

Stewart will no longer be available for advising online students and assisting faculty.

“We are so appreciative of the fine job Christa has done over the last three years assisting our students and faculty,” said Dr. Martha Hocutt, Dean of Online Programs. “We wish her well in her new position.”

Christa is a UWA graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Science in Continuing Education/Psychology. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Education Psychology at the University of Alabama.

Stewart is a graduate of Lamar High School in Meridian, Miss. A native of Lauderdale, Miss., Ms. Stewart still calls Lauderdale home.

Online Students Q&A

Q: Who are the UWA Online Advisors and how can they be reached?

A: Lisa Tanner Rhodes, Florence Williams and Libba Barger compose the current staff of online advisors. You may reach any of our online advisors by emailing online@uwa.edu or calling 1-877-892-1835. Lisa, Florence, and Libba will be available to assist you with all your needs.

Computer Requirements For Online Students

Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7 (32 bit & 64 bit operating systems).

Remote Proctor does not support non-English operating systems.

Mac OSX vio.5 & vio.6 are supported

512 MB RAM

20 GB of free hard drive space

Minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768

High speed Internet connection (DSL, Cable or LAN) are required. Dialup, cellular high speed and satellite Internet service is not supported for use with the Remote Proctor system.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 10 Spring One Session begins
Jan 14 Last day for 80% tuition refund
Jan 21 Last day for 50% tuition refund
Jan 31 Spring 2 application for degree deadline
Feb 4 Spring 1 comprehensive exam registration deadline
Feb 7 Last day to drop class without academic penalty
Feb 18 Online comprehensive exams for all master’s degrees
Feb 24 Spring 2 application deadline
Upcoming Professional Exhibits & Education Fairs

January 20

Keesler Air Force Base Education Fair — Biloxi, Miss.
Dr. Mary Hollingsworth

February 1—3

Florida Educational Technology Conference — Orlando, Fla.
Dr. Laurie Fowler, Dr. B.J. Kimbrough

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