

Alternative Methods of Instruction

Alternative Education

Alternative education courses involve either limited or no attendance at on-campus sessions, depending on the class. Instead, these courses allow you to use a computer (at a place and time convenient for you) to access course content, participate in threaded discussions, and respond to assignments posted on the web. In some cases, class meetings are conducted on the web as well. Your instructor may post examinations on the web or ask that you take them on site at the institution.

PCC's Alternative Education Office offers four kinds of alternative course delivery:

- Hybrid courses
- Interactive Television Courses (ITV)
- Two-way Interactive Classrooms to remote locations
- Online Courses (web-based)

Hybrid Courses

Hybrid courses are a combination of alternative education and classroom instruction. In a hybrid course, you spend part of the semester in a classroom setting and part of the semester in an alternative delivery setting. Thus, the amount of time you spend in class is reduced.

One type of hybrid course may allow you to listen at home to lectures that your instructors have recorded on computer CD, DVD, or VHS media. This type of course may require you to attend lab sessions on campus. Another type of hybrid course might combine online and classroom instruction. In this type of class, you participate in the class using the Internet.

Interactive Television (ITV) Courses

PCC offers live broadcasts of ITV courses via our education channel: Comcast Cable Channel 18 (Etv18). With ITV, you have the flexibility of watching the lectures at home while the class is in session, and you can call in with questions and receive immediate feedback from the instructor. You can also tape the programs for later review. In this type of class, you must participate in the class using the Internet. To take these courses, you must live in Pueblo and have access to Comcast Cable Channel 18.

Two-way Interactive Classrooms

Two-way interactive classes are taught by instructors at any campus location with students participating at other campus locations through video-conferencing. These courses may require you to participate in class using the Internet.

Online Courses

Internet courses are offered in two ways:

1. **PCC Online:** PCC Online courses are developed and taught by PCC instructors and administered through WebCT software. Refer to www.pueblocc.edu/Academics/OnlineOptions for more information.
2. **Colorado Community Colleges Online (CCCOonline):** CCCOonline is a collaborative effort by all Colorado Community Colleges to provide Internet courses and degree programs. CCCOonline currently offers AA, AS, AAS, and AGS degrees and certificates in various disciplines. You can find CCCOonline policies, procedures, and course offerings at www.cccoonline.org.

Registering for Alternative Education Courses

You must have a valid e-mail address to register for alternative education courses. For maximum convenience, you should have a computer with an Internet connection at home. However, all PCC campuses provide access to computers at various times (check your campus site for lab days and times). Please refer to this catalog for information on prerequisites. Contact the course instructor or refer to the course syllabus for required course procedures.

Independent Study, Cooperative Experience, Internship, and Occupational Experience

Some PCC programs offer independent study, cooperative experience (COOP), internship, or occupational experience courses. Internship and occupational experience courses are usually offered off campus; however, these courses maintain the same standards and provide the same quality of education as courses taken on campus.

Independent study, COOP, internship, and occupational experience courses must meet the following conditions:

1. The courses form a part of an approved curriculum which is required for graduation.
2. The assigned credit value and contact time in class are in compliance with state guidelines and are the same as on-campus courses.
3. The courses are graded with the same criteria used for on-campus courses.
4. The courses have appropriate assignments with an outlined course of study.
5. While student supervision may be conducted by job-site officials, the course of study is supervised and controlled by PCC and not by the job-site officials.
6. The course requires that there will be at least one weekly meeting between the student and instructor.

Honors Program

Degree-seeking and transfer students of exceptional academic potential may enter the Honors Program. The Honors Program offers an enhanced educational experience in the following ways:

- more challenging academic work
- greater opportunities for independent study
- research under the guidance of Honors instructors
- opportunities to present, in oral or written form, the results of Honors projects
- participation in Honors conferences with other honors students locally, regionally, and nationally.

If you complete the requirements of the Honors Program, you will graduate with Honors credit designated as such on your transcript.

You must meet the following requirements in order to receive honors credit:

1. Admission into the Honors Program

The program seeks to involve students who have high potential for future growth and success, not just those who have demonstrated exceptional abilities in the past. Therefore, we use a holistic determination of potential based on the following factors:

- High school or college grade point average
- Instructor recommendation
- Written essay
- Interview with instructor and Honors Advisor

2. Two semesters' participation in the Honors Seminar

The Honors Seminar allows you to discuss topics of general interest and/or public concern in an atmosphere of critical thinking and debate.

3. Completion of Honors Contracts in four courses

Honors contracts allow you to receive Honors credit in your courses by developing and completing a special project under the supervision of the course instructor and with the approval of the Honors Advisor. Honors contract work may be substituted for some portion of the regular curriculum. When you complete the course and the contract, you will receive Honors credit for the course. For more information, call 719-549-3120.

Adult Education Program

The Adult Education Program includes classes and assessment in adult basic skills, English as a Second Language (ESL), and GED preparation. Classes are open-enrollment, so you can register at any time. Call 719-549-3143 for more information.

Adult Basic Skills

We offer reading, math, and language instruction if you want to upgrade your skills for job advancement/qualification or prepare for higher education. Our instruction is individualized and enhanced with computer-assisted training. You must take the Adult Basic Skills Assessment Test before enrolling in this class.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

We offer instruction in reading, writing, and verbal communication skills to non-English speaking community members. Classes emphasize practical communication for everyday life. You must take an assessment test before enrolling in ESL classes.

GED Preparation

We offer individualized, computer-assisted instruction in reading, math, and language to prepare you for the General Education Development test. You must be at least 16 years old to enroll, and you must take a Pre-GED assessment test prior to enrolling.