



Title: DISTANCE EDUCATION	Code: D0502
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BACKGROUND

For purposes of this policy, distance education is defined “as the process of extending learning or delivering instructional resource-sharing opportunities, to locations away from a physical classroom, building or site, to another classroom, building or site, by using video, audio, computer, or other forms of multimedia communications by way of the internet.

Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) recognizes the diverse needs of the student population that it serves. Over 70% of our students attend on a part-time basis due to other constraints in their lives. Distance education provides a medium for instructional delivery to these students and groups that cannot be served using traditional methods. These services make possible more flexible, less time and place bound learning.

MATC recognizes that evolving technology and connectivity capabilities extend education delivery options. Quality teaching and learning can take place in the virtual arena allowing students to complete their educational goals. As the market shifts, the college is compelled to respond to our customer needs for instruction.

Offering education from a distance can be costly. Therefore, the college must find viable processes to offer distance education while minimizing the costs. While technologies are evolving, obsolescence occurs quickly, and the college must strive to remain on the current and up-to-date.

MATC will address distance education based on the following assumptions:

1. The goal of all distance education applications is to enhance the teaching and learning process for students.
2. Courses offered by distance education will have equal rigor and complete transferability to MATC’s traditional courses.
3. A variety of educational technologies may be used to best serve student needs.



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4. Internet protocols make possible learning opportunities in the home or workplace as well as the traditional classroom.
5. Cooperative relations will be developed to provide distance learning opportunities with educational and business partners, in order to maximize resources.
6. The confines of district, state or national boundaries are minimized by the capacities of the internet.
7. A contract will be developed with any agency outside of the MATC institution to provide services specific to each educational technology. These agreements will be based on appropriate formulations. These arrangements will not apply to instruction offered through consortia agreements with other technical college districts.
8. Individual students enrolled in distance education courses will be assessed statutory tuition and materials fees. Students may be assessed a student access charge to help defray the cost of the technology. Out-of -state fees will not be assessed for distance education courses.