DISTANCE LEARNING AT TROY UNIVERSITY

Troy University submitted its first Substantive Change Prospectus to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for an academic program offered through distance learning in August, 1995 for the Master of Science in Nursing Program.

In January, 1998, Troy University submitted a Substantive Change Prospectus to SACS for the University College Distance Learning Pilot conducted at Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

A Substantive Change Prospectus was submitted to SACS on January 28, 1999 for establishing a centralized Distance Learning Center, which would include live interactive courses, live courses transmitted over cable television, live courses recorded on videotape, pre-produced video on television, and online/web based courses.

In June, 2001, Troy University submitted another Substantive Change Prospectus to SACS on “Expansion of Distance Learning.” This document includes the university’s plans to offer the Master of Public Administration, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Science in International Relations, the Executive Master of Business Administration, the Master of Science in Human Resource Management, the Master of Science in Education, and the Master of Science in Nursing all as online graduate degree programs. The prospectus also lists the undergraduate academic program that were being offered online, including the Associate of Science in Business Administration, the Associate of Science in General Education, the Bachelor of Science in Resource Management, the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, and the Bachelor of Science in Management. This Substantive Change Prospectus specifically points out the distance learning programs being offered at Ft. Walton Beach and at Ft. Benning.

The 2002 Self-Study Report submitted to SACS for Troy University’s decennial reaffirmation of accreditation clearly points out the offering of the Masters of Public Administration, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Science in International Relations, the Executive MBA, the Master of Business Administration, the MS in Human Resource Management, the MS in Management, and the Master of Education as all being offered through distance learning. This was accepted by the visiting team.

Troy University received a commendation from the SACS review team in 2003 for its pioneering work in the field of online distance education.

In 2004, Troy University launched two initiatives to further strengthen its distance learning programs. College Curriculum Committees and Deans reviewed the content of 752 online courses during 2004 to ensure quality in existing course
offerings and Troy University faculty began preparing and sharing Best Practices in Electronically Delivered Programs and Courses to document and share course development methods, which was the theme of the 2004 University College World-Wide Conference.

In August 2005 SACS approved the consolidation/merger of Troy State University Troy with Troy State University Dothan and Troy State University at Montgomery. The Substantive Change Prospectus that was accepted by SACS for the consolidation/merger included a section on distance learning.

For the past ten years, the university has conducted an eCampus Colloquium for faculty development related to teaching online. The 2007 Colloquium featured Dr. David Pierce Snyder, speaking on The Future of Online Learning. In 2008, the Colloquium featured John Baldoni on How Great Communicators Make Great Things Happen. The 2009 Colloquium will be offered online and will focus on Tech Savvy Teaching for Global Online Students.