

MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



Volume 3, Issue 2

FORT DRUM

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FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

DISTANCE LEARNING



Catch the Wave

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The Army Education Center at the McEwen Library and Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum Education Center Mountain Climber

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The ESO Notes.....

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer

Distance Learning is once again the subject of the Mountain Climber, since it is on the minds and lips of many Soldiers and family members currently. I recall stating in one of last year's editions of the Mountain Climber, "Distance Learning is the wave of the future." Let me rephrase that to say that Distance Learning is the wave of the present.

For many Soldiers, it may be the ONLY option they have to work toward a degree due to the many deployments that are now taking place. Education Centers are opening in Afghanistan as we speak, but many Soldiers in country are stationed too far away to take advantage of the classes offered on the participating installations. We have heard from a few Soldiers in Iraq and many more in Afghanistan that Internet connectivity is available and college is once again a

possibility via Distance Learning.

Another reason that Distance Learning courses may be attractive to Soldiers is that the Army is reorganizing and setting up Units of Action (UAs). These UAs will be involved in intense training cycles that may prevent Soldiers from attending traditional college classes. Distance Learning allows Soldiers more flexibility as to when and where they work on college assignments and fit them into their busy schedules.

We are seeing the trend to switch to Distance Learning already. At many other installations around the world, the amount of tuition assistance now used for Distance Learning college courses has increased to one third. At Fort Drum, one half of our tuition assistance money provided to Soldiers is used for Distance Learning courses.

Distance Learning is an excellent choice for family members and civilians that have families and/or full-time jobs. It allows them the ability to relax at home while working on college courses, saving money for babysitters, taking away

excess time for commuting, and fitting the course around your work schedule and family time.

We are all individuals, with unique personalities and learning styles. We are an Army of individuals that contribute to an Army of One, just as many parts make up a body. There are many Soldiers that have the desire to seek a college degree, but do not have the self-motivation to complete courses via Distance Learning. These Soldiers need the structure provided in a formal classroom setting and for this reason, traditional college classes will never be obsolete. Distance Learning is a great tool for some, but not all.

For further information on Distance Learning, stop by Bldg. P4300, the Fort Drum Education Center.

Carla K. Ortiz



What is Distance Education? *Melissa Haapala, Guidance Counselor*

Many Soldiers today do not have the luxury of a flexible schedule that allows them to attend college classes at a set day and time each week. We understand that Army Mission must come first. However, civilian education is becoming more important for military and professional development. Luckily, distance education has become a great tool by which civilian education can be obtained.

Distance education is instructional delivery that does not constrain the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor. Soldiers may be familiar with eArmyU and the programs offered completely through distance education, however you do not need to be an eArmyU student to take advantage of distance education opportunities.

Wide ranges of technological options are available for distance learners. These include: surface mail (correspondence), CD-Rom, or via Internet technologies such as e-mail, message boards, chat rooms, and desktop video or computer conferencing.

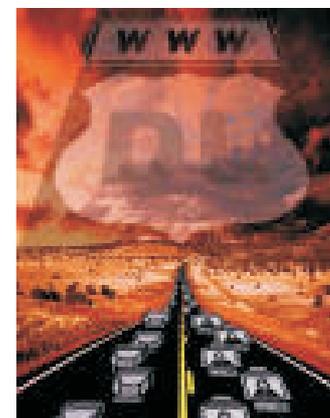
Correspondence Courses are completed with course material and assignments mailed the "old-fashion" way between the instructor and student. Correspondence courses imply that the material to be studied is in a physical book rather than exclusively on a web site. They provide flexibility regarding studying dates and times. In most cases, Internet connectivity is not required for course completion. It's great for Soldiers who are deployed and want to take college classes but do not have Internet access.

CD-ROM Courses are

similar to correspondence courses but course material is usually on a CD-ROM. These courses are portable. The materials might include pre-recorded lectures, multimedia demonstration, interactive assignments as well as lecture notes, and other types of computer files. Your computer would need a CD or DVD reader. Usually they can be used without accessing the Internet. In some cases, access to the Internet may still be required to submit assignments or communicate with the course instructor.

Internet Courses, also known as "e-learning," refer to the use of the Internet to deliver course materials and facilitate teacher-student interactions. Students use computers to connect to online classrooms, which often provide message boards, chat rooms, audio, video and multimedia technologies, in addition to text content. Internet connection is necessary.

Distance Education is not for every one. Successful distance learners tend to be self-motivated and disciplined. Generally, distance learners are voluntarily seeking further education and have set goals for themselves that make success more likely. Distance Education can be an excellent alternative for higher education particularly for Soldiers and family members. For further information regarding Distance Learning opportunities and whether it is right for you, please contact your local Army Guidance Counselor.



Interested in past Mountain Climbers... go to <http://www.drum.army.mil/garrison/education/index.htm>



Is Distance Learning For Me? Diane Smith, Guidance Counselor

When considering the learning environment that would be best for you, a traditional setting or a distance learning program there are numerous questions one must consider.

Do you enjoy a sense of ownership of your learning goal and working independently and are you motivated to work at your own pace or do you need lots of interaction with teachers and peers to keep you engaged in class?

Is it exciting for you to think about learning through the Internet or video conferencing versus being in a classroom setting and experiencing all that school has to offer?

Another question, one needs to consider, when interacting with instructors - is direct, face to face, contact with your instructor necessary for you to be satisfied as a student or do you really value the ability to engage in dialog in the classroom and the ability a teacher has to connect you to the subject?

Do you have a conducive place to study at home? Do you like to study in your own space and at your own

pace or are you able to concentrate better in a classroom setting?

When setting your schedule for learning and studying, do you enjoy the flexibility of working at your own pace and accomplishing getting through your education as quickly as possible or do you like to have a structured schedule?

Do you prefer a traditional classroom experience or would you like an alternative way to earn your degree or certificate? Cost of distance learning versus traditional classroom learning is a consideration. Distance education is resource-intensive. Sufficient money and time must be allocated to deliver whatever coursework is promised. The cost of technology can vary significantly.

An individual's learning style is extremely important when considering distance learning. What is your preferred learning style: words (linguistic intelligence) these are the writers and poets among us; numbers or logic (logical-mathematical

intelligence) science, math and philosophy are the favorite subjects; pictures (spatial intelligence) they understand better when they see a graph, chart or picture; music (music intelligence) rhythm and sound are key to this individual's learning style; self-reflection (intrapersonal intelligence) this learner is self reflective and aware of their feelings; a physical experience (bodily-kinesthetic intelligence) this individual learns through dance, athletics and craftsmanship; a social experience (interpersonal intelligence) learns through leadership, social interaction or teams; and/or an experience in the natural world (naturalist intelligence) this individual learns by the awareness of the world around them, the world of nature? Visual learners learn through seeing. Online learners are predominately visual learners. Auditory learners learn through listening... and listening to what others have to say. These

learners often benefit from reading text aloud and using a tape recorder. Tactile/Kinesthetic learners learn through moving, doing and touching, actively exploring the physical world around them. They may find it hard to sit still for long periods and may become distracted by their need for activity and exploration. Auditory and kinesthetic learners usually do well in a traditional classroom. Tactile learners enjoy distance learning or the traditional classroom environment.

Do you have good time management skills or do you tend to procrastinate? What support and direction does a student need to transition from traditional classroom environments to self-directed learning?

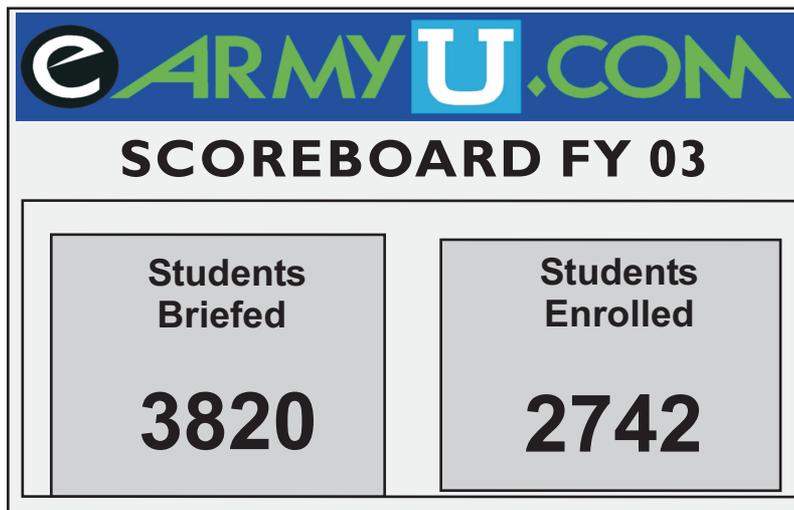
You must consider the posed questions to determine if distance education is in your best interest or is it in your best interest to continue your study through traditional face-to-face education. Both methods of learning are exciting ways to further your education. Choose the right option for you.

These two colleges are only a sample of the many fine institutions around the country that provide distance or non-traditional learning opportunities for Soldiers, family members and others in our community. I have personal academic experience with each of these institutions and I have found the college's staff very helpful. However, we each have our own learning style and expectation for our education and another college or method may work better for you. Please visit the Education Center for more information on your educational opportunities and benefits.

Army Personnel Testing Note:

Thinking deployment- think testing! If you need to raise your GT score or you want to become an Aviator, please plan ahead to take the required APT exam. The Army has established 4 Education Centers in Afghanistan but currently no facilities exist in Iraq. APT exams will be difficult to accomplish while deployed.

Prepare early and take them now before you deploy! The Testing Office provides a monthly schedule of exams and with prior planning you should be able to schedule any APT



many sources onto one transcript. If a Soldier met the degree requirements and paid the appropriate fees they could receive the degree credential.

Excelsior College recently started a new program for Soldiers to attain degree completion. The program will require you to complete CD-ROM based courses with the college to establish residency. For the Bachelor degree level, an active duty Soldier must complete 15 credit hours to meet the residency requirement, at the Associate degree level the requirement is 9 semester hours. Please see your Army Counselor for an unofficial review and more information.

Empire State College provides many alternatives for non-traditional

learning. Empire State College specializes in degree programs for working adults who prefer not to take classes at a set time or place, due to other life commitments. The college has a Center for Distance Learning based in Saratoga Springs, NY that provides many online based courses at the undergraduate or graduate level. For those of you that like more of a personal touch, but don't want or can't get to the traditional in classroom courses, ESC can provide courses through a **Learning Contract** that can be developed between you and a faculty expert. The college also maintains a staff of mentors here on Fort Drum in areas such as Math/Science, Business/Accounting and Humanities/Social Sciences.

Two Distance Learning Colleges Les Barbour, Guidance Counselor

A couple of my favorite recommendations for distance learning or non-traditional education colleges are Excelsior College and Empire State College. Both colleges are located in New York State and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Empire State College has an office here on Fort Drum and Excelsior College representatives often make visits to post.

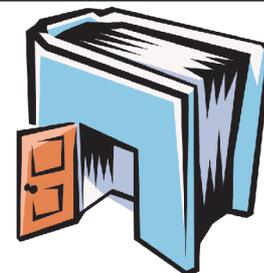
Excelsior College (formerly known as Regents College for old timers) started servicing Soldiers with a program to complete a degree without a residency requirement. Knowing Soldier's move often and take classes with many colleges, Excelsior College developed degree options at both the Associate and Bachelor level where an individual could bring together credit into one school. The Soldier could compile credit from

Want to explore what else the Education Center offers.. go to <http://www.drum.army.mil/garrison/education/index.htm>



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

"Your doorway to higher education"



Jefferson Community College Early Fall Classes at Fort Drum 8/21-10/01/04

CRJ 110	815	Criminal Evidence	SaSu	1300-1630	3cr
PSY 133	815	Intro to Psychology	SaSu	1300-1630	3cr
ACC 101	811	Accounting Princ 1	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
BIO 105	811	Environ. Biology	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 112	811	Intro. to Business	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110	811	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
CRJ 101	801	Intro to Crim. Justice	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 100	811	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101	811	Resrch. & Comp.I	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 102	811	Comp & Literature	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 150	811	Amer. Hist. to 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 104	811	Personal Finance	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 208	811	Intro. To Programming	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
CRJ 208	811	Issues in Crim. Justice	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEG 101	811	Intro. to World Geography	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 125	811	Intermediate Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 133	811	Intro. to Psychology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144	811	Intro. to Sociology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 241	811	Marriage and Family	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 121	811	Elementary Spanish 1	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 111	801	Western Civilization 1	MTWTh	1130-1245	3cr
SOC 144	801	Intro. To Sociology	MTWTh	1130-1245	3cr

Late Fall Classes at Fort Drum 10/23-12/21/04

CIS 110	815	Intro to Computing	SaSu	1300-1630	3cr
HIS 150	815	Amer. History to 1865	Sa/Su	1300-1645	3cr
ACC 102	851	Accounting Princ. 2	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
ART 115	851	Art Appreciation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110	851	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
CRJ 102	851	Criminal Admin. Proc.	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 100	851	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101	851	Research & Comp	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 220	851	Creative Writing	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 151	851	Amer. Hist. Since 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 160	851	Spreadsheet Applic.	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
ECO 100	851	Elem. of Economics	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEO 102	851	Planet Earth	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 155	851	College Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 238	851	Human Sexuality	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144	851	Intro. to Sociology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 245	851	Criminology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 122	851	Elementary Spanish 2	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 112	805	Western Civilization 2	MTWTh	1130-1245	3cr
PSY 133	805	Intro. to Psychology	MTWTh	1130-1245	3cr

SUNY Plattsburgh Semester Dates 8/23/04-12/10/04

NUR 304	Health Assessment	W	1630-1820	3cr	JCC
NUR 350	Theoretical Found./Nursing	T	1730-2030	3cr	JCC
NUR 425	Comm. Health Nursing	M	1630-1900	4cr	JCC
NUR 448	Pharmacology	T	1630-1720	1cr	JCC
CAS 111	Canadian Studies	W	1830-2130	3cr	JCC
ANT 362	Global Issues	SUNY Learning Network			
HED 311	Health in Contemporary Society	SUNY Learning Network			
LAS 111	Intro to Latin America	SUNY Learning Network			

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of the Telenursing program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration information and/or materials.

There will be a SUNY Education Fair, sponsored by the Army Education Center, on August 3, 2004, from 1100-1500 in the Robert C. McEwen Education Complex.

SUNY Potsdam Various session dates 8/30/04-12/17/04

HLTH 249	Legal Environ. Of Business	Sa	1000-1600	1cr	JCC
BUEC 330	Operations Mgmt.	Tu	1730-2100	3cr	JCC
BUEC 365	Marketing Research	Mo	1730-2130	3cr	JCC
BUEC 375	Leadershp in Organizations	Sa	0900-1500	3cr	JCC
EMRE 330	Human Resource Mgmt.	We	1730-2000	3cr	JCC
GREC 517	Intg.Arts into Elem Curric.	F/Sa	1630-2100, 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GREC 567	Elem.Soc.Studies:Cont&Meth	F/Sa	1600-2100, 0900-1700	3c	JCC
GREC 600	Phil. Foundations of Educ	Tu	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 607	Foundns. of Education	Th	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GREC 626	Zebra Stripes & Learn. Types	F/Sa	1600-2100, 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
SPED 505	Intro to Special Education	W	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRDG 605	Literacy Assess. & Eval.	M	1630-2100	3cr	JCC
GRDG 660	Teaching Writing B-6th	T	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRDG 661	Teaching Writing 7-12	T	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRDG 690	Literacy Practicum B-2	Sa	0900-1500	3cr	JCC
GRDG 691	Literacy Practicum 3-6	Sa	0900-1500	3cr	JCC
GRDG 696	Literacy Practicum 5-8	Sa	0900-1500	3cr	JCC
GRDG 697	Literacy Practicum 9-12	Sa	0900-1500	3cr	JCC
IT 544	Desktop Publishing	Fr/Sa	1600-2100, 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
IT 614	Technology in Education	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC

Potsdam appointments can be made by calling 773-9007

SUNY Oswego Semester dates 8/26/04-12/17/04

MGT 310	830	Operations Management	W	1800-2045	3cr	JCC
CPS 503	810	Psych. Foundation - Personality	T	1600-1830	3cr	JCC
CPS 510	800	Couns.Theory & Process (Lab Req)	Th	1600-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 574	800	Voc. Develop. & Decision Making	Th	1600-2000	3cr	JCC
CPS 585	810	Found. Of Psy. & Educ. Appraisal	Mo	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
PBJ 361	800	Family Law	M	1800-2045	3cr	JCC
PBJ 201	DIS	Survey: American Non-Crim. Law	SUNY Learning Network			
PBJ 350	DIS	Pro Seminar: Public Just-Writing	SUNY Learning Network			
PBJ 377	DIS	Suicide Asst. & Euthanasia	SUNY Learning Network			
PBJ 400	DIS	Police Management	SUNY Learning Network			
PBJ 400	DIS	Aging & the Fear Factor	SUNY Learning Network			
CPS 391	DIS	Intro to Family	SUNY Learning Network			
CPS 509	DIS	Prf. Seminar for HS/CC	SUNY Learning Network			
CPS 560	DIS	Chem. Dependency & Treatment	SUNY Learning Network			

General Ed and PBJ Elective Requirements for Oswego may be satisfied via online courses. Go to www.sunynorth.edu for a list of on-line courses for North Country students.

SUNY Empire State Various semester dates 9/2/04-12-22-04

BME 110	Principles of Marketing	Th	0300-1400	4cr	FTD
BME 130	Principles of Management	Th	1400-1500	4cr	FTD
MTH 135	College Algebra	T	1400-1630	4cr	FTD
MTH 224	Statistician Act. Based Approach	M	1800-2030	4cr	Watn.
CHS 310	Groups: Process & Practice	W	1800-2030	4cr	Watn.
ENG 215/315	Topics in Writing	T	1800-2030	4cr	Watn.
CHS 202/302	Prof. Perspec. In Help. Professions	M	1800-2030	4cr	Watn.

Study groups typically meet every other week for a period of 8 weeks. Substantial independent study is required, as well as participation in the study group sessions. Call 315-773-6139 for course descriptions.