UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

University OUTREACH Mission Statement

The University of Oklahoma Outreach is a lifelong learning organization dedicated to helping individuals, businesses, groups and communities transform themselves through knowledge.

The College of Continuing Education (CCE) is part of University Outreach, which extends the resources of the University of Oklahoma to locations throughout the state, across the nation and around the world.

Nationally recognized for its pioneering efforts in continuing education, CCE offers the educational resources of the university through more than 30 different program formats. On the Norman campus, adult and other learners attend programs at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, one of eleven W. K. Kellogg Foundation funded, university-based residential conference centers in the world. Annually, CCE offers some 3,000 courses and activities to more than 200,000 non-traditional learners in Oklahoma and in locations all over the world.

Advanced Programs

Advanced Programs was established in May 1964 as part of the university’s continuing education and public service commitment. OU’s College of Continuing Education pioneered the intensive teaching format, which includes advanced class preparation, a one-week or two-weekend class session for each class, and post-class work. In all aspects, except in the use of time, Advanced Programs courses are identical to their counterparts taught on the Norman campus. Today thousands of men and women have completed their master’s degrees through Advanced Programs.

Advanced Programs offers graduate degrees in the following areas:

- Communication–M.A.
- Economics–M.A.
- Human Relations–M.H.R.
- Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum (ILAC) – M. Ed.
- International Relations – M.A.
- Organizational Leadership – Interdisciplinary Ph.D.
- Social Work–M.S.W. (first two years only)

OU’s graduate courses are fully accredited resident degree programs designed to provide up-to-date mid-career training. Courses are delivered worldwide to military personnel, civil service personnel and civilians at primary and secondary sites listed in the back of this bulletin.
Are the University of Oklahoma Outreach courses the same as the Norman campus courses?

Advanced Programs has undergone voluntary external evaluation by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) of Princeton, New Jersey. The study, which compared Norman campus classes to classes offered through Advanced Programs concluded that the Advanced Programs classes are the same or similar in the following areas:

- class reading assignments
- textbooks of equal length and difficulty
- syllabus in an expanded form to guide the student through the class reading assignments
- examinations in essay or short-answer format
- the methodology format of lecture and discussion.

The major differences are in timeframe (prior study followed by intensive class sessions) and location. Advanced Programs assures a learning experience comparable to that of students attending class on the OU campus.

Equal Opportunity Statement

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 and other federal laws and regulations does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap or status as a veteran in any of the policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

University of Oklahoma Faculty

One of the most important advantages a student receives from taking degree programs through OU is our faculty. OU can use the same professors that teach the same degree program on campus because of the teaching format pioneered by OU in the early 1960s. The intensive classroom seminar sessions allow faculty to be away from campus a short period of time and teach their same courses. All faculty must be appointed by the University of Oklahoma’s Graduate College. Visiting faculty are recommended by the faculty in the academic department before approval of the Graduate College is requested. Visiting instructors must meet the same criteria and standards used on campus. Academicians and executives who are acknowledged as leaders in their respective fields serve as visiting professors for a number of class sessions. In addition, guest lecturers who are experts in the specific fields may be invited to participate in the class sessions. The resulting interaction provides students with a vital balance of theoretical and practical instruction.

Advanced Programs Credit Courses

All 4000–6000 level courses listed in this bulletin have been approved for the award of resident credit and are the same courses as listed and taught on the Norman campus to meet the requirements of degree programs. All credit is in semester hours.
Resident Credit

No distinction is made between credit awarded at the home campus in Norman and credit awarded for classes taken through programs offered at off-campus sites. Credit earned is neither extension nor continuing education credit and is not labeled as such; rather all credit is labeled and listed on the OU transcript as in-residency credit (the indication of credit as awarded on main campus at the University of Oklahoma).

Library Support

The library needs of OU students and faculty around the world are met through the extensive holdings of the University of Oklahoma Libraries, which contain more than 5 million volumes and 75,000 serial subscriptions (print and electronic), and 300 databases. Off-campus students receive the same library support as students on the Norman campus including the ability to search the entire collection and to receive research assistance.

OU is a member of the prestigious Association of Research Libraries, a limited membership association of the very largest academic and research libraries in the United States. The University of Oklahoma uses the appropriate Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Division of the ALA guidelines in the development, implementation and administration of its library services.

Library collections in Norman are located in Bizzell Memorial Library and in six branch libraries. Resources include traditional printed formats, microforms, audio and visual media and electronic resources. The libraries house three special collections in the History of Science, Business History and Western History.

Off-campus students can access the library’s catalog electronically to request books, government documents, and copies of journal articles owned by OU Libraries to be sent to them free of charge. Students can access all of the library’s online databases, including FirstSearch, Academic Search Elite and Article First, by using their OU NetID number and password. They may also send interlibrary loan requests for articles or book chapters not owned by the OU Libraries, and ask for reference help through the E-mail a Librarian program. Students can access these services from the OU Libraries Web site at libraries.ou.edu/services/.

OU continues to enhance library support to students. OU faculty and college administrators continually encourage students to delve into the use of research material through the base library or the online University of Oklahoma campus library. OU supports and adheres to the policy that students who use their research skills to the fullest will enhance their overall educational experience. The University of Oklahoma has also developed a library Web site that allows students to access the University’s entire library collection. The library can be accessed through a Web site at www.goOU.ou.edu. This site contains links to the graduate departments, library system at the University of Oklahoma and many areas of information and interest.

In conjunction with the library staff and Faculty Fellow for Information Services, OU has created a robust system of people and resources connected through a seamless electronic web, which attends to the specific research needs of the University of Oklahoma off-campus student.

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