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*For an increasing number of Monroe Community College students, online courses and programs are becoming vital components of their academic success. Such an increase comes with a responsibility to support this growing population of learners and MCC has responded with a number of new initiatives.*

## MCC Offers New Online + On Campus Option for Adults

This coming spring, Monroe Community College will begin offering students an online and



on-campus study option to earn a business administration A.S. degree in two years. By combining online course work with a one evening per week classroom component, MCC has created a more flexible opportunity for students to pursue their educational goals while balancing employment and/or family commitments.

“Few academic programs offer such an incredible variety of career opportunities as business administration,” said John Striebach, MCC Business Administration/Economics Department chair. By learning the fundamentals

of accounting, finance, management and marketing, students will be well-equipped to transfer to a bachelor’s degree program. They may choose to continue their education in such fields as accounting, e-Business, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, human resources, management, marketing, small business management and more.

The new degree option requires five semesters of online study (two fall, two spring, and one summer session). Students will take an average of three courses per semester.

### FAST FACTS

- During the Spring 2015 semester, the proportion of MCC students taking online courses rose to 25% of the total student population, the highest in College history.
- MCC is one of the largest providers of online courses in the SUNY system.
- More than 65% of MCC’s online learners are taking a mixed load of online and face-to-face courses.
- 64 academic degree programs can be completed entirely online with courses offered by MCC and other SUNY institutions.

## MCC Opens Virtual Campus Center

In June, MCC opened its new Virtual Campus Center, an innovative resource in online education.

Online and hybrid courses have become popular options for a growing number of college students. MCC’s new Virtual Campus Center supports faculty with the tools that allow for their creativity and innovation in teaching online.

The new center features a lecture capture self-record facility consisting of two soundproofed recording booths. Multiple work stations enable faculty to develop narrated PowerPoints, lecture videos, audio/video podcasts and more. Just around the corner, the Faculty Innovation Center provides computers, additional technology



**Multimedia Specialist Jeremy Case explains features of MCC’s new Virtual Campus Center at the opening of the new facility.**

and the expert guidance of MCC’s Instructional Design team.

“As MCC’s online offerings increase, so must our support of those faculty who are teaching the classes,” said Larry Dugan, MCC’s director of E-Learning and Instructional Technologies.

## Online Courses Help Fit College into a Busy Life



Steve Penta came to MCC right after graduating from Greece Athena High School and, like many

incoming college students, he didn't know exactly what he wanted to do. His mom encouraged Steve to take a semester off. "I didn't want to," he said, "but taking that time forced me to step back and really think hard about my future."

With newfound enthusiasm, he returned to MCC as a business administration major. However, balancing a full course load with his responsibilities as an MCC Peer Mentor and his job at Wegmans soon proved challenging. When he needed a natural science course, Steve decided to try to conquer the subject online.

"I don't think it would have worked as well if I hadn't dedicated a certain time of day to the class," he said. "Because you don't have to physically be in a classroom, it's really easy to ignore – procrastination becomes infinitely more seductive." But Steve made this class a habit. He checked in every morning, right after downing a protein shake and just before heading to the gym. At work, he finished homework in the breakroom on his laptop and logged into class discussions via phone. "The technology is the easy part," he said. "I've concentrated very hard on improving my time management skills."

After completing his MCC degree next year, Steve will continue his studies at SUNY Geneseo where he will pursue a dual major in business and economics. "Online courses have allowed me to make significant academic progress and helped me balance the responsibilities of college with the rest of my life," he said.

### MCC'S ONLINE PROGRAMS

*100% of the requirements for the following programs can be completed online.*

- Business Administration
- Dental Assisting Rapid Track - D.A.R.T.
- Mathematics
- Sport Management

*75% or more of the requirements for the following programs can be completed online:*

- Adolescence Education
- Business: International Business
- Childhood Education
- Criminal Justice
- Criminal Justice: Institutional Corrections
- Entrepreneurial And Applied Business Studies
- Health Studies
- International Business
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Adolescence Education
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Childhood Education
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Early Childhood Education
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: General Studies
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities And Social Science
- Teaching Assistant: Technology

## Supporting the Success of Our Students Online

As the demand for online courses and programs grows, so have MCC's efforts in online student retention. According to MCC Director of E-Learning and Instructional Technologies Larry Dugan, communication is key. "We have redesigned the online orientation to

make it more robust," he said. "We have also created a quiz that won't let students enter their online course until they pass."

In addition, an early alert system has been put into place to better support a student's progress. "We've worked very hard to ensure a consistent

experience for our students," said Dugan. "As a member of OpenSUNY, we've had the opportunity to develop a process for updating courses to align with the current best practices for student success. This summer, we were able to upgrade 20 MCC courses."

### Contact MCC

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