What is UA Online?

UA Online is distinct campus within the University of Arizona. The other campuses include UA Main and UA South.

As a campus, UA Online houses all University of Arizona exclusively fully on-line degree programs and certificates, both undergraduate and graduate. UA Online is administered by Academic Initiatives and Student Success, under the leadership of Senior Vice Provost Melissa Vito, Vice Provost for Digital Learning and Student Engagement Vincent Del Casino, and Joel Hauff, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Executive Director, Online and Distance Education.

Within the UAccess system, the campus and the fully online plans and programs offered on that campus will be identified with the code ONLN.

The website to communicate offerings and generate leads for the online programs is http://uaonline.arizona.edu

What is the difference between a UA Online degree program/course and a Main Campus or UA South degree program or online course (iCourse)?

The admissions requirements and graduation requirements for degrees are the same, regardless of campus or instructional modality.

Students’ options for courses and degrees are contingent on their enrollment in a campus. For example, UA Online students will only be allowed to enroll in degree programs and courses that have been set up in the UA Online campus. Similarly, UA Main campus students will only be allowed to enroll in Main Campus courses and degree programs. This includes iCourses, which are exclusive to Main Campus students.

One of the principal drivers for requiring students to remain within their campus when enrolling for courses is that UA Online undergraduate students will pay a per-credit-hour fee ranging right now from $490 to $515, which includes tuition and mandatory fees as well as program fees stated as a single amount. The fees are the same for Arizona residents and residents of other states. UA Online graduate students will also pay a per-unit, fee plus applicable program fees.

UA Online students eligible for federal financial aid will be able to apply their aid to UA Online budgets. UA Online students will not be eligible for the institutional aid that is available to Main campus and UA South students.

Undergraduate students will be eligible to change campuses only once, in one direction, during their tenure at the UA. Further campus changes will require administrative approval.
What is the relationship between UA Online and the Outreach College?

In Fall 2013, the entire portfolio of the Outreach College was administratively moved to an expanded division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management/Academic Initiatives and Student Success. That portfolio, which includes distance learning, fully online graduate programs and certificates, and non-degree courses and programs, is now overseen by Senior Vice Provost Melissa Vito.

UA Online is expanding to include undergraduate degree programs in order to meet our campus’s enrollment goals. UA Online went live in February to enroll new students who will begin their programs in Fall 2015.

Administratively, all questions related to former Outreach College programs should be directed to the Senior Vice Provost’s office.

In what ways is UA Online integrated into our existing structures (academic and otherwise)?

Our goal is that the University of Arizona has one enterprise system for all its degree programs and campuses.

Administratively, UA Online is integrated into the business processes of the campus. Put simply, we are not building a distinct independent structure of administration and oversight for UA Online. To the extent that additional personnel are needed, they will be integrated into existing Colleges and departments. This includes enrollment services, financial aid, registration, academic advising and instructional resources for the programs among other services.

At the same time, our goal is that the functions related to service of UA Online students be tightly networked centrally. We will provide this unity through common instructional design services for UA Online programs provided through the Office of Digital Learning, through the hiring of an Associate Director of Online Student Success centrally, and through reconfiguration and modification of existing systems as required to accommodate the needs of UA Online students within our core business processes.

What courses will UA Online students take?

The existing online graduate programs will continue to provide the existing online offerings to UA Online students.

UA Online will offer General Education, Foundations and all courses required for students to earn the degrees offered in fully-online format. As we build a fiscally self-sustaining model, the first cohort of undergraduate programs have decided to only offer a select few courses in their majors each semester. As a campus, UA Online houses all University of Arizona exclusively fully on-line degree programs and certificates, both undergraduate and graduate. An ONLN undergraduate schedule of classes will be available in April 2015.

In cases where the UA does not yet offer all the pre-requisites, such as lab science courses, for a particular undergraduate degree, we will identify these as Transfer Only degrees and will clearly identify to students the courses that must be completed elsewhere.
What services will students have access to?

UA Online students will have access to Library, 24/7 Tech Support and other services covered by mandatory student fees. We are working to develop a fee-for-service model for other services that UA Online students may want to opt-in for and that departments would like to provide, such as Campus Health & Recreation.

Who can we refer students with inquiries about UA Online to?

A list of programs is available at http://uaonline.arizona.edu/programs/undergraduate and students can enter their contact information into the form on the site to request more information. For students who prefer to call, the main contact number for UA Online is 520-621-0898. The primary contact for prospective Undergraduate students is Joe Embacher, Enrollment Services Coordinator, jembache@email.arizona.edu, 520-621-3237.

Prospective Graduate students can also enter their information for follow up, or may find department contact information through following the links from the page for their program of interest at: http://uaonline.arizona.edu/programs/graduate

Can you add our url for our program or department link to the UA Online website program description for our degree or certificate?

To ensure a consistent experience for prospective online students and to avoid confusion in communication about the courses, scholarships, services etc offered to online students, we are linking out from http://uaonline.arizona.edu to Degree Search for further information all undergraduate programs and to the official Graduate College program pages for graduate programs.

All undergraduate leads generated through the site will be followed up with contact from Undergraduate Admissions/Enrollment Services.

All additional graduate leads generated through the site are provided to Stephanie Adamson, Director, Recruitment for the Graduate College. Please contact Stephanie if you have questions about how leads will be distributed to departments for follow up or if you would like to add a link to your department or program-specific page to the Graduate College program page.
Our department wants to bring a degree online. What do we need to do?

To discuss bringing a new program online, please contact the office of the Vice Provost for Digital Learning and Student Engagement, Vincent Del Casino, or Abra McAndrew, Director of Academic Initiatives and Project Development. We can walk you through the steps of our pre-implementation assessment designed to provide a thorough analysis of the ability for departments and our campus to fully support all online program offerings in a self-sustaining model. You can also visit the website for the Office of Digital Learning http://odl.arizona.edu/ (available March 2015) for a guide to the steps in the pre-implentation assessment process for new online programs.

What resources are available for faculty who are teaching in online programs?

Online program course development is supported by the Office of Digital Learning and their instructional design team. Additional resources – buyouts, stipends, etc. – are distributed based on college and school/department practice and resourced in negotiation with AISS at the time the program is established as a fully-online UA Online degree offering. You can visit the website for the Office of Digital Learning at http://odl.arizona.edu/ (available March 2015)

How is this initiative funded/central investment?

This initiative is funded partially be an infusion of capital from Central Administration but the majority of the funds comes from reserves held in the former Outreach College as well as new strategic investment dollars earned via ongoing programs that are administered by AISS. AISS also oversees the OEP dollars that were previously administered by OIA. iCourse fees are not being used to support UA Online, but rather those resources (once accrued) will go toward supporting main campus online teaching programs.