



Institutions of Higher Education – Telecommunications/Distance Education Plan

Submit a telecommunications or distance education plan describing the telecommunications or distance education resources in accordance with 8VAC40-31-160(L).

All programs offered via telecommunications or distance education must be comparable in content, faculty, and resources to those offered in residence and must include regular student-faculty interaction by computer, telephone, mail, or face-to-face meetings. Telecommunication programs and courses shall adhere to the following minimum standards:

1. The educational objectives for each program or course shall be clearly defined, simply stated, and of such a nature that they can be achieved through telecommunications.
2. Instructional materials and technology methods must be appropriate to meet the stated objectives of the program or course.
 - i. The school must consider and implement basic online navigation of any course or program, an information exchange privacy and safety policy, a notice of minimum technology specification for students and faculty, proper system monitoring, and technology infrastructure capabilities sufficient to meet the demands of the programs being offered.
3. The school shall provide faculty and student training and support services specifically related to telecommunication activities.
4. The school shall provide for methods for timely interaction between students and faculty.
5. The school shall develop standards that ensure that accepted students have sufficient background, knowledge, and technical skills to successfully undertake a telecommunications program.