

# Definition of Distance Education

Distance education at Coastal Alabama Community College is defined as a formal educational process in which the majority of the instruction (interaction between students and instructors and among students) in a course occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical location. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous.

A distance education course at Coastal Alabama Community College is any course in which students may complete more than 50% of the requirements through Internet access to the course web site. (note: The more than 50% rule is the same as that used by the Southern Regional Educational Board.) Distance education courses at Coastal Alabama Community College may be classified as Internet or Hybrid. Web-Enhanced courses are not classified as distance education courses. The definitions for these learning formats are described below:

A. Internet – These courses are delivered one hundred percent (100%) electronically. Coastal Alabama Community College requires that Internet courses may only be developed by full-time faculty members, but may be taught by full-time or adjunct faculty members.

B. Hybrid – These courses are delivered fifty percent (50%) to ninety-nine percent (99%) electronically. (This is defined by the Southern Regional Education Board and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as a distance learning format.) Coastal Alabama Community College requires that hybrid courses may only be developed by full-time faculty members, but may be taught by full-time or adjunct faculty members.

C. Web-enhanced – These courses are traditional, seated courses in which (1) no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of assignments and course content are completed electronically, and (2) web-enhanced content may not replace the required on-campus contact hours. Web-enhanced courses are classified as traditional education courses.