



January 6, 2009

Dear online student,

Welcome to the distance education program at Montana State University – Great Falls COT.

We are happy to announce that MSU – Great Falls is upgrading to a new learning management system – Desire2Learn (D2L) – beginning spring 2009. By summer 2009 the campus will no longer be using WebCT, and all courses will have a D2L component.

To see if your online course will be using Desire2Learn (D2L) or WebCT during spring semester, please go the distance website, <http://distance.msugf.edu>, and click on the link “Where’s My Course” to search for your course(s). If you click on either the D2L or WebCT link from this page, it will take you to the login page for your course.

The majority of courses will still be using WebCT with the exception of a few Math courses. If you are registered for a Math course, log in to either D2L or WebCT as usual for further instructions from your instructor. You may be redirected to either MyMathLab or Course Compass. If this is the case, the instructor will provide you with a web address and Course ID information to log in.

We offer training sessions through our Distance Learning Department to teach you how to use WebCT and D2L. Enclosed is a training schedule. A Distance Learning Guide is also available on our distance website that explains the WebCT tools in detail. We are working on online tutorials for Desire2Learn (D2L) that will be posted to our distance website shortly and can be accessed by clicking on Student Resources.

Enclosed is a calendar of important dates. Keep this schedule as you work through the semester. This calendar lists holidays and is especially important should you decide to adjust your schedule or drop a course. Be sure to pay close attention to the dates. You must confirm your attendance with the business office by January 13th to avoid a late fee, and there are deadlines for dropping and adding classes as well. Although you can add or drop courses online until February 4, your instructor’s signature is now required should you drop a class after this date. An email from your instructor can be faxed in with the drop card if you are not able to obtain the signature on campus.

We are pleased that you have chosen to take classes online with us and look forward to working with you this semester. Please feel free to contact our student support coordinator as questions or problems arise.

Karen Vosen
Student Support Coordinator for Distance Learning
1-800-446-2698, extension 4440 or (406) 771-4440
E-mail: distance@msugf.edu

Again, welcome to MSU – GF COT’s distance education program. We look forward to working with you to attain your educational goals.

Ryan Schrenk
Director of Technology-Facilitated Learning