Texas A&M Corpus Christi Virtual Learning
Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I choose virtual learning at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi?

Benefits of studying virtually with TAMU-CC include:

1. Engagement with the TAMU-CC community even while online.
2. 1:1 support from your ISc instructors and advisors to help you succeed in all of your classes.
3. Access to your TAMU-CC professors as well as award-winning university tutoring services to support you in your academic classes.
4. Extensive online student support services for guidance in helping you adjust to virtual learning and your TAMU-CC classes.
5. Gaining time management skills that will be helpful for your future academic studies and your career.

Will I receive the same quality of teaching in an online course as if I were to attend class on TAMU-CC’s campus?

Yes, TAMU-CC is well-equipped for online learning. Online courses are taught by the same highly regarded professors and instructors who teach those classes face-to-face on campus. You will have access to the following with our online courses:

- High-quality, interactive and engaging lessons
- Blackboard, an online learning platform with access to course outlines, materials, discussion forums, recorded sessions (video and voice), collaboration tools and more, depending on the needs of the course
- WebEx, one of the leading video conferencing tools, which allows you to meet in real time with instructors, advisors, and your classmates

What will my online courses include?

While each course will differ depending on subject matter, every class will require you to participate in different activities, such as listening to live and/or recorded sessions, completing a variety of tasks and collaborative projects, receiving feedback on your work, and interacting with your instructor and classmates. You may participate in a live session with a guest speaker, play an educational game, or create a video blog. You will also have ample opportunities for cross-cultural communication via joining group discussions through video chat, forums, instant messaging, or email as well.

What will my typical week of study look like?

TAMU-CC online courses primarily use an asynchronous approach, so you will have the flexibility to complete most of your coursework on your own schedule each week. There may be some instances when you are expected to complete activities in real-time, including attending real-time WebEx meetings. If our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses require real-time meetings, those schedules will be determined based on the time zones of enrolled students.
Are Fall 2020 courses available online?

All Pathway Programs (with the exception of Pre-Master’s Program (PMP) Computer Science) are available online. We plan on all students joining us in Fall 2020. However, if unanticipated issues, such as visa interview delays or travel bans, prevent you from arriving in Corpus Christi on time, an online option will be available for Fall 2020.

How many credits will I earn for my courses I take online?

You will earn nearly the same number of credits per course for online courses as you would on campus, and your online credits transfer seamlessly toward your degree. See the online curriculum charts below for program-specific credits.

Standard ISC Sample Curriculum (online or on campus)

Please note: Specific courses may vary based on availability and your academic program.

### International Year Online Curriculum Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-Semester Program 5.0 IELTS</th>
<th>2-Semester Program 5.5 IELTS</th>
<th>1-Semester Program 6.5 IELTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0011 Grammar II (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0022 Listening and Speaking III (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0036 US Culture (3 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0012 Listening and Speaking II (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0023 Reading and Writing III (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0005 Recitation (2 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>ENGL 0005 Recitation (2 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 1301 Writing &amp; Rhetoric (3 contact/credit hours)</td>
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<td>ENGL 0016 College Life (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>COMM 1311 Foundations of Communication (3 contact/credit hours)</td>
<td>COMM 1311 Foundations of Communication (3 contact/credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 0005 Recitation (2 contact hours)</td>
<td>UCCP 1101 First Year Learning Community Seminar (2 contact/1 credit hours)</td>
<td>UCCP 1101 First Year Learning Community Seminar (2 contact/1 credit hours)</td>
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<td>MATH depending on major (3 contact/credit hours)</td>
<td>Math depending on major (3 contact/credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact hours: 15 Credits: 3</td>
<td>Contact hours: 16 Credits: 7</td>
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PMP MBA ONLINE CURRICULUM OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2-Semester Program</th>
<th>1-Semester Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0022 Listening and Speaking III (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0036 US Culture (3 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 0023 Reading and Writing III (3 contact hours)</td>
<td>ENGL 0037 Critical Thinking (3 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 5311 Foundations in Economics*</td>
<td>FINA 5311 Financial Management Concepts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 5312 Foundations of Accounting*</td>
<td>ORMS 5310 Statistical &amp; Decision Analysis*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact hours: 12</td>
<td>Contact hours: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits: 6</td>
<td>Credits: 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Suggested business courses. Actual courses will be based on recommendations from the MBA program based on student's previous coursework.

What will my courses include?

Your courses will consist of high-quality interactive sessions that include live and recorded video and voice sessions. Some of our courses will be live, while some courses can be completed on your own time. Some examples of interactive sessions you may engage in during your course may include:

- Participating in a live discussion online
- Watching an online presentation and inserting your own comments or questions throughout the video
- Participating in a discussion board on your own time
- Viewing a lecture and joining a video meeting with your professor to answer questions

Do I need to be available at a specific time to participate in the course online?

The course material can be accessed at your convenience. There will be live interactive class sessions and recorded sessions available for you to access. You will be informed of any required live interactive sessions well in advance so that you can plan ahead. Recorded sessions can be accessed at any time based on your own schedule.

Required interactive sessions may be scheduled in different time zones to allow students to interact with instructors and other students. When working on group presentations, you will have the flexibility to find a time which is convenient for everyone in the group.
Do I need to be available at a specific time to participate in the course online? (continued)

While some class sessions may be scheduled at a specific day and time, most will not. As opposed to on-campus delivery, most courses will have no set class hours, except for any pre-scheduled interactive sessions. Students will be expected to have self-discipline and be active participants in the virtual classroom. Students will be required to check the class materials and assignments regularly, whether or not the class meets at a scheduled time each week. Students must be engaged in the program Monday through Friday and meet all assignment deadlines.

Will I be able to interact with my classmates and instructors?

Yes! Social interaction with your classmates and instructors is integral to your learning at TAMU-CC. You will work in groups through video chats, group forums, instant messaging, and email, and you will collaborate on projects and assignments. Also, you will have the opportunity to learn about U.S. culture from ISC classmates. Online social activities include TikTok/video/photography competitions, Jeopardy and other games on Zoom, movie night, and open discussion forums.

What type of materials and platform will I use for my courses?

We utilize the virtual learning platform Blackboard and additional platforms like Webex to support your learning. Blackboard houses course outlines, materials, discussion forums, recorded sessions, collaboration tools, and more as the learning management system that TAMU-CC uses for all classes, and it does not require a VPN. The online platform will include course materials and recorded sessions that will help you review those course materials. You will submit all assignments for TAMU-CC through the Blackboard platform.

How will I be graded during my courses?

ISC students will be graded on a traditional letter grade scale (A to F) during all sessions.

What tools do I need to start my courses at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi?

You will need the following resources to support your virtual learning:

- Textbooks
- Laptop or PC with microphone
- Internet with good Internet connectivity
- Webcam (for PC) or laptop camera for interactive discussions
- Time – each course will require a significant time commitment (participation in sessions and online groups, assignments, etc.)
What is the attendance policy for online classes?

Attendance may be taken at synchronous (real-time) class meetings. TAMU-CC students are expected to access all of their assigned learning materials in a timely fashion and are expected to complete all assignments, exams, quizzes, discussions by the deadlines. You should expect to check Blackboard Mondays through Fridays to ensure you have all of the information you need to complete your assignments on time.

What support will be available to me?

Like all TAMU-CC students, ISC students have access to the following resources:

- Email response from instructors, Monday through Friday
- Online access to advisors – All student academic support issues
- Online Office Hours – 1:1 support with instructors and ISC staff
- Peer support – Interaction with other students from across the globe
- Our Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), winner of the National Tutoring Association Excellence Award, provides 1:1 tutoring, supplemental instruction, peer mentoring, and Writing Center support online through WebEx
- TAMU-CC Libraries – Online resources available including ebooks, reference materials, and databases

How will the ISC team support me during virtual learning?

In addition to the student support resources listed above, you will have virtual meetings with your advisors regularly to talk about your academic support needs. During those meetings, you will talk about your academic progress and performance, and he/she will give you tips about time management strategies and approaches to studying/study skills. Your ISC advisor will support you in acculturation and socializing to help you get involved in TAMU-CC virtual activities.

When is the deadline to register for the online pathway?

Once you have paid your tuition deposit, you are automatically enrolled in your courses. The Fall semester confirmation deadline (with deposit) is August 10.

What is the process for starting my virtual learning courses?

1. **Confirm** your study plan to International Admissions.
2. Take **required placement tests** to complete your registration.
3. **Set up your university account** with the help of the ISC so you will be able to access the course material and virtual learning platform once the program begins.
4. Attend our **virtual orientation** before your program begins and hear more about self-learning modules and exercises on Blackboard.
After the travel ban/restriction is lifted, can students join the on-campus program at any time?

In order to reduce disruption for all students as much as possible, the intent is that any term that begins online will be completed online. As such, if the travel ban is lifted, the expectation is that the program will continue to be delivered online for the remainder of the term and students would join the program on campus the next term.

How and when will I receive my I-20?

We will send you an I-20 prior to your course in anticipation of a fall start on campus. If it is later determined that on-campus arrival is not an option for the Fall 2020 semester, we will reissue your I-20 for a Spring 2021 start. TAMU-CC is issuing I-20s via shipping and/or electronically to meet students’ needs.

Will I need a visa in order to begin my online pathway program?

A visa will not be required to begin your online studies.

Since I’m studying virtually, is there a tuition discount?

The full tuition price is required for virtual learning at TAMU-CC. Your tuition price reflects the value of the high quality education and the caliber of TAMU-CC instructors, which is the same as if you were studying on campus. Pathway students studying online can apply for a waiver of some fees through the university, and health insurance fees will be automatically waived.

ISC students will continue to have access to all of student support services online and our online engagement tools to help you feel a part of TAMU-CC’s community while studying virtually.

What if I decide I don’t want to spend the semester enrolled in a virtual learning course?

If you decide to withdraw from your program, you must do so before the start of classes on August 24 in order to receive a 100% refund. Starting with the first day of classes, you will be eligible for a refund (including deposit) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100% refund</th>
<th>80% refund</th>
<th>70% refund</th>
<th>50% refund</th>
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<th>0% refund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 08/19</td>
<td>08/19-08/25</td>
<td>08/26-09/01</td>
<td>09/02-09/09</td>
<td>09/10-09/16</td>
<td>09/17 or later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you complete your course online, and are not able to come to the USA because of visa issues, you will be eligible for a 50% tuition refund if you meet all of the following criteria:

- Complete the semester online;
- Have achieved the required GPA to progress/matriculate;
- Provide evidence of two (2) visa rejections; and
- Submit your refund request within 30 days of the first visa rejection
If I am unable to meet the visa deadline, will I be able to complete the entire course online?
Our students are able to complete the shorter pathway programs, such as the 1-semester International Year or 1-semester Pre-Master’s Program, online. More information about full degree programs will be available soon. We expect students to complete courses on TAMU-CC’s campus as soon as visa and travel restrictions allow.

Will TAMU-CC provide any letters to support my visa application process as I complete the online course?
We expect to provide letters of support from TAMU-CC’s Office of International Education to support visa applications for students who have completed a semester of online learning.

Are progression requirements the same for online International Year and Pre-Master’s Program courses as on-campus options?

Yes, progression requirements remain the same for both the International Year and Pre-Master’s Program.

- International Year progression requirements: You must pass all EAP courses with a minimum grade of ‘C’, earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and maintain your attendance in the International Year program at a level above 80% to progress to full degree-seeking status in your undergraduate studies at TAMU-CC.

- Pre-Master’s Program progression requirements: You must pass all EAP courses with a minimum grade of ‘C’, earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and maintain an attendance rate of at least 80% to progress to full graduate degree-seeking status at TAMU-CC.