Brandeis’ Commitment to Online Learners

Brandeis University, Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) was recently highlighted in an Education Advisory Board article “Building a Sustainable Online Infrastructure”, for its online learning orientation course.

Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) offers a non-credit, self-directed online learning orientation course, available to registered students at no cost near the start of each term. The course also is monitored during the first seven days of each month outside of the start-of-term periods. As a result, students who plan to take a class in the future can complete the course a month or more in advance.

The course covers topics such as the GPS approach, our standard course structure, LATTE features (our learning management system), online learning techniques, and links to related resources.

* Please see below highlighted sections from 2013 EAB report 27017E.

Supporting Online Students: Orientation and Readiness

It Pays to Be Prepared

Beyond Checklists: Require Students to Learn the Basics of Online

Traditional Readiness Tools

Text-Based FAQs

- What is distance education?
- How long will it take me to earn my degree?

Readiness Checklist

Are you a self-motivated learner?  Disagree Agree
Do you have access to a reliable internet connection?  Disagree Agree

Calculate my score

Orientation Video

The Brandeis Approach: Structure Online Orientation for Flexibility and Accountability

Build Relevant Skills
Built in same LMS as online courses (Moodle)

Enforce Completion
Connected to Registration

Easy to Access
Available first week of every month, plus two weeks before each term

Create the Right Pace
Takes three to six hours (six self-paced modules)
- Long enough to make an impact, short enough to encourage completion
Supporting Online Students: Orientation and Readiness

Module Key Components: A Closer Look

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Online Learning Orientation for Brandeis GPS Students

Module 1: Online Learning at Graduate Professional Studies

Module 2: The Standard Graduate Professional Studies Course Shell

Module 3: Preparing for and Completing your Online Learning Course

Reading: Accessing your course; Finding your syllabus; Acquiring your textbooks; Accessing Blackboard Collaborate

Task: Be sure that you can receive email at your @brandeis.edu address

Self-Test

Module 4: Using Moodle (LATTE)

Features Module 5: Learning

Online Module 6: Resource Guide

Will be updated to require passing score to advance