Welcome or "Start Here" Content Examples

Welcome Announcement

Provide a brief personal welcome to the course and direct students to your Start Here or Welcome button

Start Here, Getting Started or Welcome button

Purpose of the Course

"The purpose of this course is to ……"

Provide a short statement that provides students with a practical explanation of what the course will do for them. It is the "what's in it for me".

Course Organization

Provide a brief overview of how the course is organized. For example, what will they find under each menu button? Does each week have a common pattern like readings, quiz, discussion?

Time Commitment

This is example for an 8 week course…..

Were this class meeting on campus it would meet for 150 minutes per week over 16 weeks. We are using only half that number of weeks, so you are expected to be spending about 300 minutes (5 hours) interacting in this class per week. Also, since you would be expected to spend hours outside the classroom reading, studying, and writing, the actual attention each week for this course is probably closer to 8-10 hours.

Here's another sample…

For face-to-face 3 credit courses, typically you would be expected to spend an additional 9 hours each week outside of class for readings and assignments. Please consider this when planning your course load. Just as in a face-to-face class, schedule a time for yourself when you will "attend" the online course. You are more likely to be successful and not have an overload towards the end if you follow a routine. Over the course of the semester, each session/topic will run 1 week, from the Tuesday, 12:01am of the week through to Monday 11pm of following week. Any assignments will be due by Monday 11pm.

What I expect of you…

State your expectations for student activities and interactions.

For example, I expect you to read all the course readings, reflect on the application of these readings to your work and post a thoughtful, concise reflection of XXX to the discussion boards each week. I expect you to ask questions in a timely fashion and submit your assignments on time and respect the opinions of your classmates…

What you can expect from me…

Include how often you will check email, post in discussion forums, provide feedback, and how long a turnaround time it will be for their assignments.

How to get help

Example… Please post any questions about course organization or content in the Questions discussion forum or email me. However, if you have a technical problem, contact the Technical Support Center at 970-351-4357 or see our student documentation at
http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/student.html

Other things that can be included or referred to…

- Netiquette
- Course policies
- UNC Policies: Honor Code and Plagiarism -
  http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/defining_plagiarism.html