Welcome to California State University, Northridge and the CSU’s CourseMatch/Fully Online Courses Program

Now that you are enrolled in a CSU CourseMatch/Fully Online Course at CSU, Northridge (CSUN), we’d like to offer some guidance, advice and resources to help you successfully complete your online course.

You are a student at CSUN and with your CSUN Student ID, you can explore and have access to a wealth of online resources.

Your Student Portal at CSUN is myNorthridge; log in at www.csun.edu. The portal links to:

- Our various Student and Academic Policies
- Student Programs and Services, including Disability Resources & Educational Services (www.csun.edu/dres)
- Campus Directory for students, faculty and staff

The academic calendar at CSUN may differ from your home campus calendar. Here are some key dates to remember:

- First day of classes: Monday, August 24, 2015 (Saturday classes begin August 22)
- Last day to drop a class using the self-service registration system: Friday, September 11, 2015
- Last day of classes: Tuesday, December 8, 2015
- Finals Week begins: Wednesday, December 9, 2015
- Instructors’ grades due: Tuesday, December 22, 2015
- Days campus is closed for holidays: September 7, 2015 (Labor Day); November 11, 2015 (Veterans Day); November 26-29, 2015 (Thanksgiving Recess); December 25, 2015-January 1, 2016 (campus closed).

You are taking an online class at CSUN, and the delivery of our online courses may differ from that of your home campus.

1. Our courses use the technology platform Moodle. You can become familiar with Moodle at www.csun.edu/it/student-moodle-help.
2. You can access Moodle through myNorthridge Portal via our home page: www.csun.edu. For additional help, please visit the “How To Guides” at www.csun.edu/admissions-records/guides and select “Access the SOLAR Student Center.” If you should experience portal access problems, contact our IT Help Center at 818-677-1400, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

3. The syllabus for your CSU fully online course will have the information you need to successfully complete the course requirements. The syllabus is posted in the technology platform Moodle.

4. You have access to all our library resources. Explore library services at http://library.csun.edu.

5. Our Bookstore can provide you the course materials you need for your CSU fully online class. For more information, go to www.csun.edu/tuc/matador-bookstore.

6. The CSU also provides you a free online library on supplemental learning resources – www.merlotx.org. You are welcome to explore and use these free resources for learning.

7. If you have questions about using CSUN technologies, call our IT Help Center at 818-677-1400. The Help Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. For additional guidance, visit our IT Frequently Asked Questions page at www.csun.edu/it/it-faqs-students.

8. If you need a tutor or information to help improve your study skills for your CourseMatch/fully online course, CSUN has a Learning Resource Center. You can learn more about our Learning Resource Center at www.csun.edu/lrc.

**Online learning** differs from learning in the classroom. You want to make sure you’re ready to succeed in your online class, and there are a few steps you can take to help you complete the CourseMatch/fully online course successfully. If this is your first time taking a fully online course, we recommend that you:

1. Complete one or two “Are you ready for online learning?” checklists. Here are two self-assessments that are free and easy to complete. You should feel confident that you have the skills, learning styles, technologies and time to be successful in an online course. These checklists can help you make sure you’re prepared to succeed:
   a. CSU Stanislaus Online Learning Readiness Checklist
   b. University of North Carolina Online Learning Readiness Checklist

2. Spend time (hours vs. minutes) exploring the student portal, the campus’ technology platform for your CourseMatch/fully online course, reviewing the syllabus, and making sure you are familiar and comfortable with the online services at CSUN. You want to be prepared BEFORE the course work starts to pile up.

3. Online courses frequently require additional time for preparation and participation; make sure to schedule enough time to do the work for your CourseMatch/fully online class. DON’T LET “I’ll do it later” lead to poor grades, which ultimately wastes your time and money in school.