Distance Learning Program

In 1979, WPI’s commitment to active, lifelong learning prompted the creation of the Advanced Distance Learning Network (ADLN), a partnership between several academic departments and WPI’s Instructional Media Center. ADLN programs enable working professionals to continue to grow within their chosen field without having to make repeated trips to the WPI campus.

Delivery Media

ADLN courses consist of the same content and materials as on-campus class meetings. Courses originate in one of WPI’s studio classrooms and are delivered to ADLN students via interactive compressed video, expressed-mail videotapes, or the World Wide Web, depending on the facilities available to the student. Materials such as books, handouts, and supplemental readings are sent by express mail, fax, e-mail or are posted on the World Wide Web. An e-mail account and access to the World Wide Web are required for participation in an ADLN course.

Programs of Study

ADLN offers a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), a Master of Science (M.S.) in fire protection engineering, and a Master of Science (M.S.) in civil and environmental engineering. In addition to these degree options, WPI’s ADLN also offers numerous graduate certificate programs in these areas.

The M.B.A. program focuses on the management of technology and features a highly integrative curriculum that emphasizes leadership, ethics, communication, and a global perspective. Concentration areas include MIS, technology marketing, technological innovation, operations management entrepreneurship, and management of technology. This 49-credit M.B.A. program may be reduced to as few as 31 credits with an appropriate academic background. A customized 15-credit graduate certificate program in management is also available.

The Fire Protection Engineering (FPE) program is oriented toward developing a well-rounded professional who can be successful in a competitive career environment. The curriculum is designed to teach students current standards of practice and expose them to state-of-the-art research literature that will support future practices. In addition to the 10 course (30-credit) M.S. option, professionals with a B.S. degree in an engineering technology or science field who complete four thematically-related FPE courses can receive a Graduate Certificate in FPE. Master’s degree holders may instead opt to complete five thematically-related courses for an Advanced Certificate in FPE.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering programs are arranged to meet the interests and objectives of individual students and their corporations. The curriculum focuses on today’s environmental issues and their relationship to engineering, business, and law. The 33-credit Master of Science degree is a professional practice-oriented degree designed to meet the continuing challenges faced by practicing environmental engineers. A four-course Graduate Certificate is also available through ADLN.

The M.B.A. program allows 18 foundation-level credits to be waived for those with appropriate academic backgrounds, either via straight waivers for those with appropriate course work completed within the past six years with a grade of B or better or via waiver exams. The M.B.A. program, the M.S. in fire protection engineering, and the M.S. in civil and environmental engineering allow students to transfer up to 9 credits from graduate-level course work at other schools. Graduate and advanced certificate programs require all credits to come from WPI.

Faculty

Management has 26 full-time members and 10 part-time members, 24 of whom have Ph.D. degrees. Fire Protection Engineering has 5 full-time faculty members, all with Ph.D. degrees, and 2 part-time professors. Civil and Environmental Engineering has 13 full-time faculty, all with Ph.D. degrees, and 8 part-time professors.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is $703 per credit ($2,109 per 3-credit course) for all programs in the 2000 - 2001 academic year. Students wishing to earn Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.’s) instead of graduate credit may opt to audit courses at half tuition.

Financial Aid

Loan-based aid is available only through special arrangements. Students must be registered on a half-time basis (two courses per semester) or greater.

Contact

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