Advanced Distance Learning Network (ADLN)

Distance Learning Program
In 1979, WPI’s commitment to active, lifelong learning prompted the creation of the 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 delivery format most suited to each course. 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, access to the World Wide Web and minimal technical requirements found at http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/ADLN 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, technological marketing, technological innovation, operations management entrepreneurship and management of technology. This 49-credit M.B.A. program 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.

Credits earned in any WPI certificate program can later be applied toward an advanced degree, contingent upon formal admission to graduate study. A maximum of two courses taken at WPI as a nondegree-seeking student may be applied for credit to the M.B.A. program; a maximum of four courses taken at WPI as a nondegree-seeking student may be applied for credit to an M.S. in fire protection engineering or an M.S. in civil and environmental engineering.

Credit Options
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.

Special Programs
ADLN and appropriate academic personnel are always willing to consider the addition of new programs when there is sufficient interest.

Student Services
Academic advisors are assigned upon admission. Online library services are free, and reference services are available by telephone and e-mail. Dial-up UNIX accounts (for e-mail, etc.) and career placement and counseling are available for matriculated students. Books may be ordered toll-free from the WPI bookstore (888-WPI-BOOKS) and are typically delivered one to three days after ordering.

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 $752 per semester hour for all programs in the 2001 - 2002 academic year. This is the same rate as on-campus courses. Students wishing to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) 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 and Information
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