

## FAQs about Blended Courses in the Graduate Certificate in Psychology Program

### What is a blended course?

In the Graduate Certificate in Psychology blended courses, eight in-person class meetings are fully replaced with interactive online learning activities. 'Fully replaced' means that you are not required to be on campus on the day the class would have met.

### What are the advantages of this format?

Blended format is highly convenient for professional students because it limits the number of times you must commute to campus. This format also has learning advantages: During the online weeks everyone "gets a front row seat"—that is, everyone actively contributes to and benefits from online conversations about the course material. The online learning activities will challenge you to think more deeply about what you are learning while allowing considerable flexibility about when, where and how you do this.

### Does blended format mean that I am getting less from my instructor?

Instructors will be following you closely throughout your learning path. Before your blended course meets for the first time, your instructor has chosen the learning activities and worked with an instructional designer to set up the online weeks, in order to create the best possible learning experience for you. Once the course is running, your instructor will be present in the online weeks—monitoring and participating in online conversations; giving group and individual feedback; and holding online office hours by Skype or phone. When an in-person class follows an online week, your instructor already has a wealth of information about how you are doing, individually and as a group, and what you need next.

**What are the technology requirements of this program?** To participate in this program you will need:

- A desktop or laptop computer with sound capability and with Firefox\* installed
- A headset with microphone for listening and speaking through your computer
- A broadband Internet connection
- Recommended: Skype for connecting with your instructor during online class weeks

\*Mozilla Firefox is the supported browser software. Other browsers such as Google Chrome and Internet Explorer do not always display online course content correctly. After you register, we will send you information about how to get Firefox and Skype.

### What does it mean to attend an online class week?

Attendance during online weeks is defined as *active and timely engagement* with online weekly activities. Each online week has two deadlines—one in the middle of the week (typically for posting your ideas) and one at the end of the week (typically for responding to colleagues)—but you can set the daily and weekly work schedule that fits best for you.



## FAQs about Blended Courses in the Graduate Certificate in Psychology Program

### **Am I required to participate in the online class weeks?**

Yes. You are expected to attend at least 75% of in-class meetings and at least 75% of online weeks.

### **How will I know what to do during the online weeks?**

After you register for a blended course, you will receive login information for Blackboard Learn, an easy-to-navigate site (also called a learning management system). All DEREЕ courses, blended and not blended, use this system. Online learning activities for your blended courses will be organized by weeks within Blackboard Learn. The Graduate School Orientation will include a special half-hour session for students in blended courses about Blackboard Learn.

### **How can I connect with my instructor during the online weeks?**

Your instructor is available to answer questions by email and also can meet online with you in Skype during his or her online office hour.

### **What support is available to me?**

- Blackboard Learn and all related online course elements are web-based—so if your own computer or connection is down you use can use a computer on campus or any other computer that has the required utilities loaded and working.
- If you have questions or need assistance concerning Blackboard Learn, ACG email, or other ACG-supported technologies:
  - On campus, visit the computer labs
  - OR**
  - Send an e-mail to the Blackboard Learn Helpdesk: [bbhelpdesk@acg.edu](mailto:bbhelpdesk@acg.edu)
  - OR**
  - For students in blended courses only, call Blackboard Learn Administration and Support at +30 2106009800 ext. 1378.