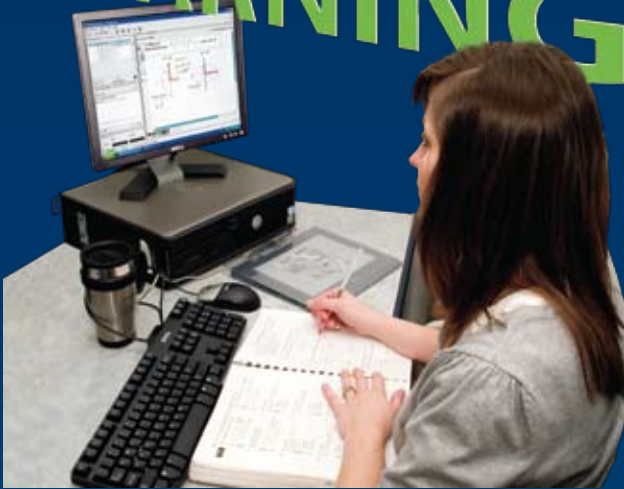


DISTANCE LEARNING



NORQUEST COLLEGE IS COMMITTED to providing access to education by reaching students where they live and providing them with the opportunity to learn, work, stay, and strive in their home communities.

Through distance learning, students can access the NorQuest programs in Alberta, across Canada, and around the world.

Sabina Ramana found great success with NorQuest's distance programs. Originally from India, Sabina took Academic Upgrading through NorQuest from her present home in Australia. A trained dentist, Sabina is planning a career change and is working towards a degree in Accounting before she moves to Canada next year.

"I really enjoyed doing that course. In the beginning I was a bit worried as I had not studied math for so long," says Sabina. "But my experience was great and I will recommend NorQuest to everyone."

Distance learning, particularly the online variety, is becoming an integral part of the delivery method for NorQuest due largely to technological advances and the changing nature of today's student.

"Many students have complicated lives, balancing work, family and school, and for these people flexible delivery makes sense," says

Andrew Jevne, Coordinator of Distance Delivery and Educational Technologies, for Academics for Careers and Employment (ACE).

NorQuest offers a variety of innovative distance delivery methods, designed to meet the students' needs. WebClass Live classes allow students and teachers to meet online at a specific time to interact just as they would in a classroom. WebClass Flex classes are online, self-paced courses that the students work on whenever they have available time and at their own pace. Hybrid classes combine face-to-face instruction with distance e-learning.

Currently, 30 per cent of NorQuest College students are from outside of Edmonton and complete their education while continuing to live in their home communities.

"More than 2,500 of our students are learning in their home towns," says Dr. Wayne Shillington, President and CEO of NorQuest College. "Everyone benefits when people can keep living and working in their communities."

NORQUEST COUNTS ON THE SUPPORT of the community to ensure that we can keep delivering high quality distance education programs. Canadian Natural Resources Limited is a company that understand the need for distance education and has donated \$100,000 to support educational delivery and distance learning tools to expand health-care education in rural areas.

"Education will help to create healthy, sustainable communities," says Maggie McTurk, Communication Coordinator for Stakeholder Relations from Canadian Natural Resources Limited.

NorQuest is currently launching a pilot project which will extend the hybrid e-learning model into the Phillipines.

The project will allow internationally trained health professionals to start this bridging program in their home country, then finish the last 8 weeks of the program in Canada where they will be able to work as practical nurses.

"It's amazing what this technology will help us to achieve," says Cheryl Whitelaw, Dean of Learning Resource Services. "The goal of this pilot program is to have 600 nurses working in Canada by June."

NorQuest College is a partner in eCampus Alberta, a consortium of Alberta's public colleges committed to increasing learner access through distance delivery.

Allan Markin, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., and NorQuest Partner to Bring Education Home



ALLAN MARKIN, LIKE NORQUEST COLLEGE, believes in removing barriers and providing opportunities for Albertans.

Markin, as chairman of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. for nearly 20 years, has a vision of creating healthy sustainable communities. One of the ways he sees this happening is to ensure educational and professional opportunities are available and accessible to all Albertans. It was this shared vision with NorQuest that led to his personal involvement and his company's investment in the College.

NorQuest believes in making education accessible to all. One of the ways the College does this is through distance learning, and it is an area strongly supported by Markin and his company.

"E-learning allows students to successfully complete their program from home. This was an important consideration for Canadian Natural," said Markin. "We recognize that people from rural areas might prefer to stay in their communities while completing their education, as well as in their subsequent search for a career upon graduation. Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. takes pride in providing jobs to local people wherever possible so they may continue to live in their own community"

In particular, Canadian Natural has a desire to expand options for health care education believes that essential health care services must be sustained in all communities. It was this motivation that led to Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.'s \$100,000 gift to NorQuest to support distance learning tools to expand health care education in rural areas.

"It is the technology of the e-learning programs that makes health care education a possibility for many rural students," said Markin.

MARKIN IS ALSO INTERESTED IN REDUCING skilled-labour shortages in the oil and gas industry. He believes that partnering with NorQuest can help support this goal and has generously donated \$100,000 to support distance learning tools for the Administration Professional with a Major in Oil and Gas program here at NorQuest.

"It is the technology of the e-learning programs that makes health care education a possibility for many rural students."

Together, NorQuest, Allan Markin and Canadian Natural are working to build foundations for success by providing accessible education to students where they live and work. As stated by Markin, "Each of us needs to keep working within our communities, within our companies, within our industries, and especially with our young people, to encourage their future success."

NorQuest College Foundation Donor Recognition

NorQuest College and the NorQuest College Foundation gratefully acknowledge the following donors, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous. These donors have contributed to the success of our students, with combined gifts of \$1000 or more, between October 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

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*The NorQuest College Foundation gratefully recognizes the multi-year financial commitment of these Circle of Success Donors.

A Message from the Foundation Board



NorQuest College is committed to meeting students where they are and helping them to create a path to where they would like to go. One of the most innovative ways that NorQuest does this is by providing a variety of flexible distance study options for students. Whether it's online learning, a live virtual classroom, print-based independent study, or a combination of these, our innovative program delivery methods work to make each student's educational aspirations a reality.

Every time I think about how NorQuest changes lives I think about Carrie. A divorced single mother living in Provost, Carrie was looking for a new career. She wanted to go back to school but didn't want to uproot her family to move to the city. When Carrie heard she could take the practical nurse program through distance learning at NorQuest it unlocked the door to her future. Carrie is now a graduate of the Practical Nursing Program and is working in her community.

NorQuest's distance delivery programs and courses rely on a combination of learning tools and in turn the NorQuest College Foundation relies on support and commitment from the community to help create new pathways for distance learners.

Andrew Megson

NorQuest Foundation Board Directors

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