Welcome!

We are pleased that you have decided to enroll in the School of Public Service (SPS) Online program.

The SPS Online program uses the Desire2Learn (D2L) course management system along with Zoom (accessed through D2L) to facilitate both asynchronous and real-time online interactions among online students and faculty. Desire2Learn is a collaborative learning system which gives you the flexibility to interact with your instructor and classmates at your convenience using text-based interactions at any time during a weekly module. Some courses utilize Zoom, an audio and video tool to “meet” your instructor and your classmates over the internet at a specific date and time. If your course has required Zoom sessions, these will meet every other week, are two hours long with a break in between, and are scheduled on Saturday mornings Central Time. In our experience, a combination of asynchronous interactions (using D2L) and real-time interactions (using Zoom) between our faculty and students creates opportunities for productive learning experiences and helps build a strong community of learners. To access D2L and Zoom you will need to login to the D2L website using your Campus Connect userID and password at the link below:

http://d2l.depaul.edu/

What do you need to have to participate in an SPS Online course?

You will need a computer (PC/Laptop), an integrated (wired) headset (headphones with microphone), and a webcam. Check your PC/Laptop Operating system:

- Mac: OS 10.7 (Lion) or higher
- PC: OS Windows 7 or higher

1. Memory: 256 MB RAM (512 MB or higher recommended) and 20 MB free disk space.
2. **Check that you have adequate Internet access:** Broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)

3. **Get a Headset:** Built-in, USB plug-in, or wireless Bluetooth dual set microphone and speaker. **Important:** To avoid echo or feedback during a session, please **do not** use the built-in microphones or speakers in your PC or laptop. You **must** use a wired headset with integrated microphone. Also please mute any microphones on your laptop or webcam (most webcams come with an inbuilt microphone) to avoid any feedback.

4. **Check your Internet Browser:**
   - Mac Safari 5+, Firefox, Chrome
   - Windows IE 7+, Firefox, Chrome

Your choice of internet browser (which must be Java and JavaScript enabled) depends on your computer’s operating system on a Windows PC or a Mac.

5. **Get a Webcam: built-in or USB plug-in webcam or HD webcam**

Zoom allows the sharing of video between participants during a session. Once your webcam is installed you should enable it during the session. Videos are voice-activated: the class can view the speaker during the session if your webcam is enabled. **Note:** Your laptop may already have a built-in webcam.

We are excited about the learning opportunities offered by the online technologies in the SPS Online program. We hope that you will be able to use these technologies productively to have a rich and fruitful learning experience. Please contact me or Assistant Director for Academic Advising, Eunice Morales at spsadvising@depaul.edu if you have any questions.

Best,

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