

# The Online Programs Newsletter

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## Greetings from the Director of Online Programs

The fall semester has gone by quickly! As the weather begins to get colder, we are preparing for the start of our Winter semester. Winter classes begin on Monday, December 11th. As a reminder, winter courses are accelerated at 5 weeks long.

We are also excited for

the launch of our newest online degree-completion program in Special Education for the Spring 2024 semester. This will bring our online degree-completion program offerings up to 11 total programs. We will have some news on additional online program offerings for the Fall 2024 term!

To all students beginning courses this winter or preparing for spring courses in January, please be sure to contact our Office of Online Programs with any questions or concerns.

Rebecca Boyer  
Director of Online Programs



## MU's EPPiIC Values

- Exploration
- Public Mission
- Professionalism
- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Compassion

Look for more details about our EPPiIC values in this and future newsletters.

## Spring Session - Important Dates

As an Online Programs student, you are automatically registered for the major requirement courses for your program.

Please make sure to check your degree audit to see what classes you have been

registered for. If you need gen ed or electives and are not sure what to take, please contact your advisor for assistance. OP staff are not able to advise on academic plans.

Spring registration opened

on Thursday, November 7.

Spring classes begin on Tuesday, January 16. The last day of drop/add is January 23.



## Meet the Communications/Public Relations Coordinator

### What is your name and title?

Thomas P. Boyle, Ph.D., APR  
Professor of Communication

### How long have you been at MU and in what positions?

I began as an assistant professor of communication in 2001, became an associate professor in 2006 and a professor in 2014. I have served in various leadership roles at M.U. I was department chair 2006-2014 and director of the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center 2014-2017.

### Can you tell us about your family?

I have a lovely grown daughter who is in a mental health counselor in Pittsburgh. I also have two cats, Reese and Coco, who live with me in Hershey, PA.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of

### work?

I truly love teaching our students and all that comes with being a public relations educator. I have had the opportunity to teach and/or mentor more than 5,000 students in my career, here at M.U. and earlier at Susquehanna University.

### What do you like about working with the Online business students?

While some skills remain the same, like the ability to tell a news story, the vehicles to do so change. I feel blessed to work with students whose work habits and connections with our mediated reality change. I am encouraged to work with such gifted and diverse students.

### Do you have any advice for our online students?

Become engaged with your profession!

While coursework provides the skills and theoretical foundation to work in the public relations or a related professions, your education at M.U. is shaped by your investment of time in other activities, like our campus' chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

There are many opportunities to get involved online or in-person with PRSSA-MU. Also, do an internship for university credit or – even better – do more than one! Internships can be completed in several ways – online, hybrid or in-person. Along with senior-level seminars and major coursework, internships and PRSSA are other opportunities to take the skills and theories you have learned and apply them. The work produced can really give you an advantage in your personal, academic and professional careers.

## Top Challenges Online Students Face - Lack of Motivation

When you first started your online program, you were probably extremely excited about this new adventure in your life. You were fully engaged and committed to your goal.

However, as time passed and you found yourself sitting in front of a computer screen for hours, you may have started to lose motivation.

Attending classes and completing assignments online requires a lot of discipline.

### How to Cope

How can you maintain student motivation and engagement throughout your coursework? Try these ideas:

**Get feedback:** Make sure you get timely feedback from professors and other students on a regular basis. This will keep you motivated and also help you track your progress in the course. You could also set up a study group online.

**Set goals:** Write down your daily goals and to-do lists and work through these to get things done and meet deadlines. Crossing things off your list comes with a feeling of accomplishment, which helps sustain motivation.

**Stay on track:** Be sure to keep up with your classes, assignments, and projects, and don't fall behind. Deal with problems with motivation as soon as they show up.

## EPPICC: Inclusion



Millersville University is firmly committed to supporting and advancing the diversity and inclusion of its campus community.

Inclusion is creating a campus com-

munity where differences are welcomed and respectfully heard and where every individual feels a sense of belonging. We affirm our shared values, recognize our challenges, and commit to building on existing efforts to foster a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community,

**“Diversity is the mix.**

**Inclusion is making  
the mix work.”**

**-Andres Tapia**

## New OP Program: Fully-Online Undergraduate Business Degree

The Office of Online Programs is excited to announce our first fully-online undergraduate degree program in Business Administration, Marketing and Management.

Starting in Fall 2024, online students will be able to start the business undergraduate program without previous credits at MU or transfer credits.

Our business administration curriculum is designed to provide the necessary skills and knowledge in all busi-

ness disciplines. This well-rounded education prepares students to succeed in any business: for-profit, non-profit, or public sector organization.

A degree in Marketing prepares students to effectively develop attractive products and services, price offerings competitively, identify the right marketplace, and use cutting edge advertising strategies to make the brand they represent stand out from competitors. Enter a variety of careers focused on helping businesses com-

pete, grow and be successful in the marketplace.

A degree in management at Millersville equips students for a variety of roles and allows them to enter the business field at a high-level position upon graduation. Our management program exposes students to all major functional areas of a business but also allows you to focus on courses in human resources, entrepreneurship, operations, or leadership based on your individual career goals.

## Resources for Online Students

As a student of Millersville's Online Programs, you do have access to a variety of academic and student support services throughout your program. These are in place to assist you along a challenging and formative experience here at Millersville University.

### LEARNING SERVICES:

The Office of Learning Services promotes and encourages the unique

learning styles of all Millersville University students through advocacy, assistive technology, collaboration, and direct services with the University community. Here is the link to their website: <https://www.millersville.edu/learningservices/>

### LIBRARY:

Online students are welcome to visit our library in person, however if you

are not able to do so, you can access the many resources our library has to offer via their website. <https://www.library.millersville.edu/home>

The library also offers a chat system where you can chat with our librarians, asking questions or for help navigating the online library system.



## Changes to Registration Holds

Changes have been made to how holds are assessed to accounts. Holds are maintained on accounts with a past-due balance.

If your account has a past-due balance of less than \$2,000, a transcript hold will be maintained on your account until the balance is paid in

full. However, access to registration will not be restricted.

If your account has a past-due balance of \$2,000 or more, you will not be able to proceed with registration until the balance is brought below \$2,000. Transcripts will be withheld until the balance is paid off in full.

Thus, when you receive an email from one of the Online Support Specialists that we are unable to register you due to a Hold on your account, your past due balance is over \$2,000. You will need to contact the Office of Student Accounts at [osa@millersville.edu](mailto:osa@millersville.edu) or 717.871.5101 in order to resolve the issue.

## Office of Online Programs

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Millersville's Online Programs are designed for adult learners who wish to complete their degree. We offer degree completion programs in the following programs:

- Bachelor's in Business Administration
- Bachelor's in Public Relations
- Bachelor's in Design in Interactive & Graphic Design
- Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor's in Special Education
- Bachelor's in Emergency Management
- Bachelor's in English with a Writing Studies Concentration
- Bachelor's in Marketing
- Bachelor's in Management
- Bachelor's in Nursing
- Bachelor's in Social Work

We're on the web:  
[Millersville.edu/onlineprograms](https://millersville.edu/onlineprograms)

## Meet the OP Staff - Beth Roberts



**What is your name & title?** Beth Roberts, Online Programs Student Support Specialist

**How many years have you been at MU? Have you always been in this position?** In January, I will be with MU for 12 years. I started as secretary

of the Biology Department, moved to the Honors College and in September 2022, I moved to Online Programs. I have enjoyed each position here at MU and am thrilled to be with Online Programs now.

**Can you tell us about your family?** I've been married to Keith for 29 years. We live here in Millersville with our fur-babies. We do have 2 children; both are married. We have one grandson and two more on the way in 2024! Being a Meemaw is the best thing ever! I enjoy running, hiking and spending time with my husband and fur-babies at our cabin in Sullivan County.

**What do you like about working with Online Programs and its students?** I am excited to see adult learners achieve their goals. I missed out on the college experience, so I am thrilled to see others - some even as

old as me - returning to school to complete their degree. Many of our students are very driven to succeed and make the most of their time with us.

**Do you have any advice for our online students?** Don't quit. Once you take that first step of applying, follow through. Make sure you connect with your advisor early in your MU experience so that you have a solid plan for completing your degree.

