



**Columbia Southern University – Dept. of Continuing Education
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Education & Training Plan
Successful Student Certificate Program with Externship
Columbia Southern University (CSU)

Student Full Name: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Program includes National Certification & an Externship Opportunity
Mentor Supported

Successful Student Certificate Program with Externship

Course Code: CSU-A-STDT
Program Duration: 6 Months
Course Contact Hours: 375
Student Tuition: \$3,799

The Successful Student Program

This program provides students with the information and skills they need to succeed in their studies, including setting academic goals, managing time and financial resources to meet those goals, and developing an awareness of how they learn. Students also build thinking, listening, reading, study skills, note-taking, test-taking, and information literacy skills. The program also includes discussions on stress management and career development. Throughout, students will apply critical thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations. The skills students learn from this program will be essential to student success not only in the academic context, but will also carry over to any professional undertakings thereafter.

Education and National Certifications

- Students should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- There are no state approval and/or state requirements associated with this program.
- There is a National Certification exam available to students who successfully complete this program:
 - **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification Exam.**

Program Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, students will be able to:

- Create long- and short-term goals that align with your personal mission statement
- Create an academic time-management plan
- Create long- and short-term financial goals

- Solve a problem using critical and creative thinking
- Recommend effective learning strategies for your learning preferences
- Create class notes using active listening techniques
- Create reading notes using active reading techniques
- Recommend strategies for studying for and taking a test
- Recommend strategies to appropriately communicate with diverse audiences, including peers, instructors, and teams
- Evaluate sources for reliability, credibility, currency, and accuracy
- Create a stress-management plan
- Create a career exploration plan
- Use Microsoft Office

National Certification

Upon successful completion of this Columbia Southern University program, students would be eligible to sit for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam. Although there are no state approval, state registration or other state requirements for this program, students who complete this program at Columbia Southern University will be prepared and are eligible to sit for this national certification exam. Students who complete this program are encouraged to complete the externship option with their program. Students who complete this program can and do sit for the MOS national certification exams and are qualified, eligible and prepared to do so. Columbia Southern University works with each student to complete the exam application and register the student to take their national certification exam.

Externship / Hands on Training / Practicum

Although not a requirement, once students complete the program, they have the ability to participate in an externship and/or hands on practicum so as to practice the skills necessary to perform the job requirements of a professional in this field. Students will be assisted with completing a resume and/or other requirements necessary to work in this field. All students who complete this program are eligible to participate in an externship and will be placed with a participating organization near their location. Columbia Southern University works with national organizations and has the ability to place students in externship opportunities nationwide.

Columbia Southern University contact: If students have any questions regarding this program including national certification and externships, **they should call Laurie Coleman at 800.977.8449 x1840 or via email at laurie.coleman@columbiasouthern.edu.**

Note: No refunds can be issued after the start date published in your Financial Award document.



About Columbia Southern University!

Welcome to Columbia Southern University!

OUR MISSION: Columbia Southern University provides diverse learning experiences and affordable, flexible distance education programs at the certificate, undergraduate, and graduate levels to a global student body, delivered by qualified, student-centered faculty committed to teaching and student learning. The University is dedicated to providing exceptional academic and student support services.

OUR VISION: The Vision of Columbia Southern University is to change and improve lives through higher education by enabling students to maximize their professional and personal potential.

The Continuing Education Department at Columbia Southern University is committed to a program of public service, outreach and continuing education by sharing resources with the workforce to enhance the intellectual capital of all those in need or desire lifelong learning and development. <http://www.columbiasouthern.edu/online-degree/continuing-education>



Columbia Southern University and Pearson Education

Columbia Southern University's eLearning programs were developed in partnership with Pearson Education to produce the highest quality, best-in-class content and delivery necessary to enhance the overall student learning experience, boost understanding and ensure retention. Pearson Education is the premier content and learning company in North America offering solutions to the higher education and career training divisions of colleges and universities across the country aimed at driving quality education programs to ensure student success. Please visit us at www.pearson.com.

About Pearson Education

Welcome to Pearson. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning. We are the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries helping people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives. We provide a range of education products and services to institutions, governments and direct to individual learners, that help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. Our commitment to them requires a holistic approach to education. It begins by using research to understand what sort of learning works best, it continues by bringing together people and organizations to develop ideas, and it comes back round by measuring the outcomes of our products.

The Successful Student Program Detailed Student Objectives:

GOAL SETTING AND MOTIVATION

- Explain three keys to academic success
- Analyze the relationship between values, motivation, and academic success
- Write a personal mission statement
- Analyze the characteristics of SMART goals

TIME MANAGEMENT

- Identify effective time management strategies
- Explain the importance of prioritizing activities
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of various time management tools
- Recommend strategies for avoiding time management pitfalls

FINANCIAL LITERACY

- Define financial literacy
- Explain the advantages of setting financial goals
- Explain strategies for managing your finances
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit

CREATIVE THINKING, CRITICAL THINKING, AND PROBLEM SOLVING

- Analyze steps in the critical thinking process
- Use creative thinking techniques
- Explain the value of using critical and creative thinking skills to solve problems

LEARNING PREFERENCES

- Describe different learning preferences
- Determine your learning preferences
- Recognize classroom and study tactics for different learning preferences

LISTENING AND NOTE-TAKING IN CLASS

- Describe how to prepare for class
- Explain techniques for active listening
- Analyze characteristics of effective in-class notes
- Compare different in-class note taking strategies

READING AND ANNOTATING

- Explain the process of active reading
- Describe highlighting and annotating techniques
- Explain different strategies for taking notes from reading materials
- Combine class and text notes

STUDYING, MEMORY, AND TEST-TAKING

- Describe effective study habits
- Identify various memory strategies for studying
- Analyze strategies for taking different types of tests

COMMUNICATING AND TEAMWORK

- Explain how to adjust your communication to suit your audience
- Recommend best practices for forming and participating in teams
- Explain ways to manage conflict in one-on-one and team settings

INFORMATION LITERACY

- Explain information literacy
- Describe strategies for finding appropriate information sources
- Explain what makes a source reliable, credible, current, and accurate

- Explain how to use sources ethically

STAYING BALANCED: STRESS MANAGEMENT

- Identify major stressors that affect students
- Identify personal stressors
- Analyze your reaction to personal stressors
- Recommend tips for managing stress

CAREER EXPLORATION

- Describe careers related to your interests
- Explain the key strategies for exploring a career
- Recommend strategies for networking that enhances career exploration and growth
- Create a resume

Note: This program can be completed in 6 months. However, students will have online access to this program for a 24-month period.

MICROSOFT OFFICE Module

- Use an integrated software package, specifically the applications included in the Microsoft Office suite
- Demonstrate marketable skills for enhanced employment opportunities
- Describe proper computer techniques for designing and producing various types of documents
- Demonstrate the common commands & techniques used in Windows desktop
- List the meaning of basic PC acronyms like MHz, MB, KB, HD and RAM
- Use WordPad and MSWord to create various types of documents
- Create headings and titles with Word Art
- Create and format spreadsheets, including the use of mathematical formulas
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of computer database functions, including putting, processing, querying and outputting data
- Define computer terminology in definition matching quizzes
- Use the Windows Paint program to alter graphics
- Use a presentation application to create a presentation with both text and graphics
- Copy data from one MS Office application to another application in the suite
- Use e-mail and the Internet to send Word and Excel file attachments
- Demonstrate how to use the Windows Taskbar and Windows Tooltips
- Explain how copyright laws pertain to data and graphics posted on the Internet
- Take the college computer competency test after course completion
- Follow oral and written directions and complete assignments when working under time limitations

Note: Although the Microsoft Office Module is not required to successfully complete this program, students interested in pursuing free Microsoft MOS certification may want to consider completing this Microsoft Office Module at no additional cost.

System Requirements:

Windows Users:

- Windows 8, 7, XP or Vista
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Internet Explorer

Mac OS User:

- Mac OS X or higher (in classic mode)
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Apple Safari

iPad Users:

- Due to Flash limitations, eLearning programs are NOT compatible with iPads

Screen Resolution:

- We recommend setting your screen resolution to 1024 x 768 pixels.

Browser Requirements:

- System will support the two latest releases of each browser. When using older versions of a browser, users risk running into problems with the course software.
- Windows Users: Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Mac OS Users: Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox

Suggested Plug-ins:

- Flash Player
- Real Player
- Adobe Reader
- Java