Welcome

Happy Fall!

Welcome to the fall 2, 2012 term at Florida Institute of Technology. This is the Holiday term. Shortly after classes start we have Halloween and then quickly behind it is Thanksgiving.

Then before we know it 2013 is here. Please note that commencement is Saturday, Dec. 15 and classes end on Dec. 16.

I know that our online students join us from around the country and the globe so while those of us in the Southeast are enjoying the cooler weather and our friends north of us watch the beautiful deciduous leaves change, some of you may be looking forward to warmer weather. That’s if you live down-under, and we do have Australian students.

No matter where you call home we are excited to be part of your academic journey.

If you have suggestions about additional information that should be included in the newsletter, please send this information to our student newsletter editor at apolinfo@fit.edu.

Coffee Shop, Home Office or Quiet Library: Where is the best place to study?

By Jeseca MacDonald

That depends on you and the specific location you have in mind. A coffee shop can be very busy with lots of chattering and distractions, however it could be even less of a distraction than what you have at home (crying kids, laundry piling up and the television calling you). The library is quiet, but for some it may be too quiet. How do you find the best space to study? Whether you are setting up a space at home, or are trying to find a place outside of home, here are some things you want to look for:

- No Distractions – limit people, TV, video games or whatever is most distracting to you
- Comfortable Seating – but not too comfortable that you are going to fall asleep
- Access to Internet and adequate power supply
- Have essential items close by – your book, notebook, calculator, etc.
- Plenty of room to spread out
- Proper lighting
- Snacks and drink so you keep up your energy level and stay hydrated
- Good temperature
- If you are distracted thinking about other things, keep a list close by of things that may be causing you stress or your mind to wander so that you can come back to them later after you are done studying.
Bridging the Distance: Evans Library Video Tutorials

Have you ever experienced the following scenarios?

- It’s your first time doing research using library resources. Where do you begin?
- Your topic for a research paper is too broad and needs revision.
- It’s midnight and you’re just beginning your article search for your research paper.
- You’ve heard about RefWorks but aren’t sure how to access it.

The Evans Library has created a series of video screencasts to assist students in using the library resources available to them. These screencasts are available on the library website, lib.fit.edu, under the “How Do I” section. Click on the link for Start Research or you can access them here.

The Conducting Research Series contains modules that cover a variety of topics related to using library resources at Florida Tech. The modules are:

- Understanding Your Assignment
- Defining Your Topic
- Search Strategies
- Managing Reference Information with RefWorks
- Scope
- Using the Internet for Research vs. Using Library Resources
- Finding Books and eBooks
- Finding Articles
- Summon: Searching and Refining Results
- Summon: Managing Results and Citations
- Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery: Overview
- How to Use your ILLiad account

You can view each module separately, but for maximum benefit, it is suggested that you view the entire series and then revisit those modules as needed. Remember, these are available for viewing 24/7!

If you have any questions, I am here to help. I can be reached at (321) 674-8766 or at cdavis05@fit.edu. And, you can always use our Ask a Librarian service at http://lib.fit.edu/services/askalibrarian.php

Next time I will tell you about another great library resource that will help us all to bridge the distance.
IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>FALL TERM</th>
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**VA Base**

Questions about your veterans’ education benefits? Contact your VA representative, Andrea Morley, at (321) 674-8204 or amorley@fit.edu. For information on the different VA benefits please visit: http://www.gibill.va.gov

**ATTENTION AS OF 10/01/2012 THE PAYMENT RATES HAVE CHANGED.**

Did you know online students can receive a housing allowance?

- **BAH or Housing Allowance**
  - The Housing allowance is now payable to students enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance is ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the rate would be $684 for 2012).
  - The amount of $684 is only for those who are considered at the 100% level. If they are at another percentage level, the VA will pay the appropriate percentage.
  - Example: If the student is at the 80% level, they would receive $547.20, 70% $478.80 and so on.
  - A student must be enrolled full-time in order to receive the housing allowance. Unfortunately graduate students who are taking one three-credit class every eight weeks do not benefit from this change.

**Career Management Services**

We are pleased to announce that our job posting system, Experience, is now named Panther Career Link! Online students must register with Career Management Services on Panther Career Link to search for jobs posted for Florida Tech students and graduates and to receive individualized services such as résumé reviews. Go to www.fit.experience.com and use the password token “panther” to get registered. To request an individual appointment with a career advisor, please email your request to career@fit.edu from your Florida Tech email address. We will not consider requests for services from generic email addresses.

There are also many other services offered on our website including CareerShift, which is an online set of integrated applications proven to help job seekers successfully find employment and Optimal Resume, which provides virtual résumé assistance. All services require registration with your Florida Tech email address. Looking for a job overseas? We now offer Going Global, a resource designed to help you find an international job or internship. The resources include expert advice on CV, resume, work permit and visa requirements to work abroad. You will find a link to Going Global in your Panther Career Link account. For more information and further services available online, go to www.fit.edu/career/online/index.php

*“If we do not plant knowledge when young, it will give us no shade when we are old.”*  
—Lord Chesterfield

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