

Dear A&T Technology Education Program:

I would like to take this opportunity to give your online program a huge thumbs up, high five, and 'happy dance' all at once. As a person that has attended traditional college through two states, and after many years in the work place working for others and myself, and deciding to tackle the challenges of teaching in Secondary school this year, your classes, staff, and professors have been nothing short of stellar.

I am currently working on my NC Teachers Certification in Technology Education. I am currently serving under an emergency license for the State and should be a Lateral Entry teacher next year. The stress of my first year teaching was tremendous. Dealing with students varying in capabilities from low to high, classroom management issues, even things as easy as keeping good attendance records were sometimes overwhelming. Add to this the need to take 15 college credits for certification during this time and you can see where my life was severely affected. Enter your people and the Distance Learning program.

I was hired a day after classes started and told I needed to take 15 Credits. I was able to find 12 credits, in Distance Learning program, for Fall, Spring, and Summer (actually all 15 would have been available if I needed them, but I was able to take 3 credits elsewhere). I was unfamiliar with how A&T's registration worked, but had all my questions answered quickly, politely, and intelligently by all that I talked to. The distance-learning department was crucial in these regards, thanks in particular to Pat White.

The classes being online were and are lifesavers. I did not have to drive the 2 hour round trip after work, to be in a class. My professor, Dr. Childress, was always available, either by phone (home AND office) or E-mail (again home AND campus). Dr. Childress, having been a Middle School teacher for many years not only understood the pressures I was under in trying to do the best I could at work, but also knew that my own schoolwork attributed to the pressure and worked with me at times to make sure that I was able to show him my best. His knowledge, advice, and understanding were more than someone in an ivory tower making noise. They gave me a light in some of my darker moments.

Do not think that this is an easy way to get your college credits. In a lot of ways this is much more difficult than attempting the same courses in the traditional manner. You must have very good reading capabilities. Organizational skills MUST also be well developed. The information you take away from the class is just as valid, if not more so, since you are sharing your thoughts with other students in a way that is very different than in a traditional setting. You are more aware of what and how people address the issues being discussed, since everyone has to post answers to questions in open discussion, rather than have a few people in class help drive the lecture of the professor. However, if you are up to the challenge, the freedom of not being tied to a daily schedule is quite refreshing.

To close I am more than happy to write this letter of appreciation and recommendation to anyone that might be interested in utilizing this program. Although this might not be a way for all students to get their college credits, for those that can handle the challenge; the program, staff, and professors make this utilization of technology something that equals, and in many instances, surpasses, the traditional idea of a classroom.

Sincerely,  
Roy Lindlau