Quick Guide for Online Course at Southern Miss:

There are many Online courses open to the general student population here at Southern Miss. However, if you cannot come to campus and are in the position to take only Online courses, you should apply for one of our Online Programs which are listed at the Eagle Learning Online website.

➢ To access your online courses go to: https://usm.blackboard.com.

➢ Several Southern Miss websites will lead you to the login page for your online courses.
  o USM’s Home page > Current Students
  o SOAR
  o Eagle Learning Online

➢ Before logging in, take a moment to scroll down the page to review the information and Links provided.
  o This information is available to help your online experience be successful.

➢ Now, you are ready to login using your Campus ID (“w” and 6 digits) and password.
  o Important-Read your syllabus for each of your online courses to make sure you have the skills and/or can be online at the required time to complete the course.
  o Check your syllabus and if your course requires proctored testing, please visit http://www.usm.edu/lec/proctoring to fill out the appropriate proctor form.

➢ All admitted Southern Miss students are assigned a Campus ID (also known as SOAR ID)
  o This is a 6 digit number preceded by a “w” (ex: w123456)

➢ The Campus ID and your password are required to register for courses through SOAR.

➢ If you do not have a password, contact the Itech Help Desk – 601 266-HELP (601 266-4357).
  o The hours are 8am to 10pm Monday through Thursday and 8am to 5pm on Friday.
  o Once you have a password, you can go to Campus ID Password Management to change your password.

➢ The Itech Help Desk can also explain how to access you USM email account.
  o Your USM email account is your only means of receiving electronic communication from The University of Southern Mississippi
  o You may find the Itech site “How Do I…?” will provide you with valuable information.

➢ Required Equipment
  o Computer with high speed Internet connection
    ▪ Tablets and Smart phones can be used for some applications, but will not provide everything that may be required by your instructor.

➢ Minimum required Skills

  Students should be able to:
  o Create and Save a Word document
  o Compose an email
  o Attach a file
  o Upload a file
  o Download a file
  o Take a digital photograph and upload to a computer
• Save a file to computer or USB device
• Use a Webcam, if applicable
• Use a microphone
• Create a basic PowerPoint presentation, if applicable

➢ Minimum Software
  • Internet Browser supported by Blackboard-- Click here for information
  • Firefox seems to work best. Firefox download
    • Hint - if having problems, try using a different browser.
  • Adobe Acrobat Reader (http://get.adobe.com/reader/)
  • Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or compatible desktop publishing software packages (OpenOffice, iLife, etc.)
  • Common Plugins
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For Student Support visit
  o [http://www.usm.edu/elo/support91/students/](http://www.usm.edu/elo/support91/students/)

For Video Tutorials visit
  o [http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm](http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm)

For 24/7 HELP for technical problems vist

For the USM Bookstore
  o [http://usm.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&storeId=13556&langId=-1](http://usm.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&storeId=13556&langId=-1)