



# Press Clippings

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## College Lets Students Opt for Class Type

WHEN YOU register for a course, you often have a choice: in-person or online. But at Peirce College, you don't have to pick one or the other. All students will soon get access to both formats in the same course.

### STUDENTS

in a given week. The flexible delivery model will be offered in certain programs this fall and will be extended to the entire curriculum by September 2016. The effort is part of Peirce's strategic plan for 2015 to 2018.

Last year the college ran a pilot program to see how students would respond to the new flexibility, and the results were promising, said Stephanie Donovan, assistant professor and faculty chair for health programs.

Students who took courses in the pilot had much better attendance than had their counterparts a year earlier, she said. Absenteeism fell from 10.2 percent to 1.4 percent.

Students indicated that the new system would allow them to miss class for illnesses, child care, or other commitments without having to feel guilty because they could complete their coursework online instead, Ms. Donovan said.

Some students might plan to take their classes in person but use the online component to review information if they didn't understand something. Others might plan to take most of their classes online but make a trip to the campus if they were struggling with a concept and wanted to discuss it with a professor.

Peirce College has already worked to make its programs easily accessible — all courses are offered online and in person — but students were looking for even more flexibility, said James J. Mergiotti, the college's president and chief executive. The college "wanted to take it to the next level," he said. "It's just a perfect fit in terms of what we're trying to accomplish."

—CASEY FABRIS