Distance Education
Distance education is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include--

(1) The internet;
(2) One-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices;
(3) Video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassettes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).

Additionally, the Office of Lifelong Learning provides the following services:

Credit for Life/Work Experience
Credit may be earned for career and professional experiences that are documented through the portfolio process. The availability of credit depends on the relevance of the students’ experiences to their major as determined by the department and the school dean. The application process and initial advisement begins with the adviser for Experiential Credit. For information contact: 877.837.8527.

Continuing Education Credit Hour Courses
These courses are offered in non-traditional scheduling formats and designed primarily for professionals and job improvement. The courses may be transferable to university credit through academic petition and the approval of the department head and the school dean. Students pursuing these courses will be considered as either special or temporary until they have completed the regular student admission process.

Dual Credit
The Dual Credit Program enables high school students to enroll in college courses and simultaneously earn both high school and college credit for those courses (subject to the agreement of the high school). Missouri Southern is pleased to participate in this program. Admission to the dual credit program is limited to high school students who have completed their sophomore year, who have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, who are pursuing the state-designated college preparatory high school Core Curriculum, score at proficient or above on the MAP and who have the recommendation of their principal or counselor. Students should obtain a Dual Credit Application and information about available courses from the Office of Lifelong Learning, Webster Hall Room 141, phone 417-625-9861.

60-Plus Program
The pursuit of education is not limited by a person’s chronological age. The goal is to encourage continued educational growth for new careers and personal enrichment through a tuition reduction program designed for persons 60 years of age and over.

Professional Education and Conference Development
A number of conferences are provided for professional development and public awareness. Many of the conferences provide continuing education units to meet professional mandates.

Online Faculty Training & Professional Development
Any and all instructors who will be teaching an online course(s) are required to participate in the MSSU four week online faculty training course prior to teaching an MSSU online course for the first time. Additionally, online instructors are required to successfully complete one online professional development session annually.

Instructional Design
Creating instructional materials is both an art and a science. The LLL Instructional Designer (ID) creates learning methodologies that align to program/course objectives. Our ID offers expertise in adult learning principals, needs analysis, performance analysis and learning metrics. Whether a new course created from scratch is required or revisions to existing content, our ID can help Subject Matter Experts create engaging and effective learning. The Office of LLL has extensive experience leading needs assessment and task analyses, developing design documents as well as evaluating the effectiveness and ROI of training programs for any and all departments across all academic content areas.

Online Tutoring
The Office of Lifelong Learning provides 24/7 online tutoring through Smarthinking. Students connect to live educators from any computer that has Internet access, no special software installation or equipment is required. Additionally, the Smarthinking Online Writing Lab is available to assist secondary, post-secondary, and graduate students become stronger writers. Students receive a detailed, personalized critique of any written assignment, such as an essay, paragraph, report, personal statement, cover letter, resume, or creative work. When applicable, students can select specialists such as ESL, Technical Writing, or Creative Writing experts. Students can submit writing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For information contact: 877.837.8527