

Distance learning options for the artisan trade

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Due to the increased accessibility to the internet and bandwidth speeds, an emerging trend in distance learning opportunities is on the rise. This option is especially attractive to individuals who are employed full time, have demanding family priorities and are geographically limited, says Marian Theron, Programme Manager of Distance Learning at False Bay TVET College. In South Africa the White Paper on Further Education and Training highlights distance learning as an additional mode of delivery to increase access to learners. The high demand for higher education also adds pressure on the existing infrastructure which is insufficient to meet the demand for further education.



As such, False Bay College is tracking market gaps, and increasingly expanding its service offerings to meet the growing demand for educational opportunities. Traditional students as well as transitioning adults need new ways to gain knowledge and training in order to be competitive in the workforce. Findings have demonstrated that typical subject areas of greatest interest for distance learning are business orientated. False Bay TVET College has however taken it to the next level and is able to offer Electrical Engineering and Motor Mechanics through distance learning which empowers individuals already employed in these fields to up skill themselves.

False Bay College launched distance learning in 2015 and enrolled approximately 300 students into the N1 - N3 and N4 - N6 courses. An impressive final exam revealed many of the students receiving a distinction in more than one subject.

"We want all our learners to be successful and to that end we have developed a list of criteria to be taken into consideration when wanting to apply for distance learning," says Mrs Theron. Learning tests, and assignments are made available on the college learning management system. However, exams need to be written on the advised campus at a said date. This measure has been put in place to help learners who opt for distance learning to successfully conclude and achieve their aspirations. Previous experiences with distantance learning opportunities have demonstrated a very high incompletion rate, hence False Bay TVET College insists on a face to face introductory session, to raise the success rate of these courses.

"Distance learning is not for everyone, and to improve the success rate of individuals pursuing this learning mode, it's vital to build a relationship with the appointed distance learning tutors, not only to offer you course support, but to keep you motivated says," Marian Theron. False Bay TVET College offers quality, accredited, vocational, occupational and skills programmes in a range of fields, designed with Industry to meet the skills shortages of South Africa.

False Bay College, a leader in the Public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges sector has been rated as one of the top performing TVET Colleges in South Africa, with campuses located in Fish Hoek, Mitchell's Plain, Khayelitsha, Muizenberg and Westlake. For more information on the distance learning offered by False Bay TVET College, visit the False Bay TVET College or contact Mrs Marian Theron on 021 701 1153

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False Bay College



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