Dear MSU Summer Online Student,

Over the last few years, in response to student demand, we have been steadily increasing the number of courses we offer online during Summer Session. The response from students has been very positive, and I am glad you have found a course for this summer that is of interest to you.

Given the high demand by students—demand that our course capacities simply cannot meet—I am encouraging all online students to carefully consider their commitment to the courses in which they are enrolled. The majority of students in our summer online courses do very well, even those who have no previous online experience.

However, online courses do have an elevated withdrawal rate compared to face-to-face courses. I attribute this to students simply not being aware of the demands of taking online courses in a compressed format (16-week courses taught in six, eight, or 12 weeks). A full-time student during the fall and spring semesters takes approximately one credit hour per week. Therefore, if you are taking a single three-credit course in a six-week session, you should consider yourself a half-time student. Please plan your time accordingly.

My intention is to prepare you for success, not to scare you off. If you are willing to make the necessary commitment, you will be successful.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to look at the brief self-assessment quiz found at www.montana.edu/summer/online. The quiz will give you some additional insights about your preparedness for online learning.

All the best,

Jeff

Dr. Jeff Adams
Assistant Vice Provost
Director of Summer Session