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THE SAU CONCEPT

Spring Arbor University is a community of learners distinguished by our lifelong involvement in the study and application of the liberal arts, total commitment to Jesus Christ as the perspective for learning, and critical participation in the contemporary world.
As a Spring Arbor University online student, your growth and success – academically, professionally and personally – are our focus. Even though you may not be physically present on campus, you are part of a community of learners that is distinguished by our lifelong involvement in the study and application of the liberal arts, a total commitment to Jesus Christ as the perspective for learning, and critical participation in the contemporary world.

As leaders in adult online education, we understand that you need flexibility and support. That is why I encourage you to fully engage with your fellow students, faculty and your student success advisor. Each will enrich your academic experience in ways you never imagined possible.

You are here to receive a quality education and to advance your career. Keep these goals top of mind as you engage in critical thinking by asking questions in your pursuit of wisdom. Demonstrate your personal commitment to responsible, ethical leadership and effective communication through the original work you do here. Remember, the skills, knowledge and abilities you gain as a Spring Arbor University student will serve you well long after you have completed your degree.

We appreciate your interest in Spring Arbor University and wish you the best in your academic endeavors.

Dr. Brent Ellis
President
**ABOUT SAU ONLINE**

**Since 1873,** Spring Arbor University has helped students pursue wisdom by offering an education grounded in the Christian faith. What began as a small elementary and secondary school in the late 1800s has evolved into a premier private Christian university that offers engaging online programs designed to meet the unique needs of busy, working adults. While we’re not the only university to offer online degree programs, our distinction lies in our total commitment to providing educational excellence within a Christ-honoring and supportive online community.

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“I was drawn to the convenience of SAU’s fully online program, but I didn’t really know what to expect in terms of the online learning environment. I quickly realized how much I had to learn, but I also found that SAU had anticipated what I needed to know and geared the introductory course around getting comfortable with online learning. I love the flexibility of an online program, where I can access online discussions and complete assignments when it’s most convenient for me, around my full-time job as a grant writer and my family responsibilities with two school-aged children.”

Lisa Valdez, MCOM

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A full list of awards and recognition can be found at online.arbor.edu/awards-and-recognition
STUDENT SUPPORT

SAU Online is a pioneer and leader in adult online education. We understand your needs, and we welcome you with an online environment specifically created to enhance your strengths and support your journey.

- An Online Admissions Representative will help you choose a program that best fits your needs and walk you through the admissions process.

- Our Financial Aid Staff will give you accurate information on financial resources, based on your specific needs and circumstances.

- You will have direct access to SAU’s highly acclaimed instructors.

- Upon acceptance, you will be assigned your own Student Success Coach, who will be your personal concierge from day one to graduation day.

- Throughout your program, you’ll enjoy rich opportunities to strengthen your walk with God, build your professional network, master subjects in your sphere of influence and build lifelong friendships with fellow Christians around the world.

- Our Tech Support Team will help you with any technical issues you may have.

- A Graduate Career Advisor will help you develop a career plan and will notify you of opportunities, experiences or resources related to your career plan.

- You are assigned an Academic Advisor when you are accepted who will recommend schedules, monitor your progress, answer program-related questions and direct you to appropriate support services.

WHEN DO CLASSES START?

Most classes have six start dates per calendar year. To see start dates for your program, go to online.arbor.edu or call an Online Admissions Representative at 1.844.621.0900.

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY

At SAU Online, you’ll find that you are becoming close friends with your classmates, and your professor even encourages you to call him or her when you need help.

From the comfort of your own home, you will submit assignments, take tests and review class resources. You also will enjoy engaging podcasts, interesting threaded discussions and thought-provoking videos that cause you to be transformed in ways you never thought possible.

Keeping you connected is our priority, which is why we offer so many ways to keep in touch – email, chat, discussion boards, live audio-conferencing, a state-of-the-art learning management system, iTunesU® and more.
ACCREDITATION

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) – All degrees offered by Spring Arbor University are accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL. 60602. 1.800.621.7440.

Spring Arbor has been approved by the Michigan Department of Education to offer online reading courses for elementary and secondary teachers that are required by Michigan law for initial certification renewal. The courses are EDU 624 for elementary and EDU 625 for secondary.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) – Spring Arbor University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036.

State Authorization

SAU is authorized to offer online education in the following states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, WY

SAU is authorized to offer online education in the following states with limitations: DE, KY, LA, MA, NC, ND, NY, OH, WA, WV

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

As the popularity of online degree programs grows, the number of schools offering online degrees grows as well. When researching online schools to earn your degree, you want to make sure you are looking only at accredited colleges. Accreditation is important because it means the university is held up to a certain standard. You also will want to compare the school’s rankings and any recognition awarded by third-party sources. This way, you’re getting a quality education that is recognized for its student satisfaction, instructional quality, and credibility.

Spring Arbor University Online offers highly-ranked, highly-respected educational programs for busy adults. In addition to being accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, we’ve received numerous awards and rankings for our degree programs. See below for recent rankings and awards.

■ Ranked in U.S. News Best Colleges: Regional Universities Midwest Rankings
■ Ranked in the 50 Best Christian Colleges and Universities 2015*
■ Named in the Best Online Christian Graduate Schools Guide 2015*
■ Named in the 50 Most Affordable Christian Colleges in the U.S.*

*Christian Universities Online
SAU Online Programs

Spring Arbor University offers affordable, accredited, Christ-honoring degrees online that are designed to broaden your professional reach, enrich your faith and make you more marketable in your sphere of influence. As an SAU online student, you will enjoy an engaging curriculum that will prepare you to pursue a more purposeful career with confidence. You’ll also find it easy to engage with your instructors and peers. It’s a fully integrated approach to online education that’s specifically designed to inform and transform the mind, body and spirit of adult learners.

Financial Aid

There are many different sources of financial aid available to those who qualify at Spring Arbor University Online. We will work with you to identify the financial benefits for which you may qualify, including state and federal aid, military discounts and tax benefits.
MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

- Total Credit Hours: 36
- Tuition Per Credit: $633
- Total Tuition: $22,788
- Application Fee: $30
- Registration Fee: $40/sem
- Technology Fee: $105/sem
Are you ready to advance with a rich portfolio and advanced communication and leadership skills? It’s time to enroll in Spring Arbor University’s online Master of Arts in Communication program. In as few as 20 months, you will graduate with the skills you need to lead organizations and teams into the future through clear, effective and gracious communication.

You will examine both the challenges and the opportunities involved in interpersonal communication; group and public communication; mass communication, culture and technology; communication ethics and moral reasoning; and intercultural communication.

**FOUNDATION COURSES**

■ COM502 Graduate Seminar (3)
  Introduces students to expectations and resources for graduate study. Includes orientation to research as well as program specific library resources. Must be taken before or concurrent with any other first course.

■ COM504 Communication Theory and Worldview (3)
  An overview of theoretical frameworks related to various contexts of communication. Theology and ethics of communication are examined in light of a Christian worldview. Prerequisite: COM502.

■ COM606 Research Methods in Communication (3)
  Students develop skills in designing, interpreting, and evaluating research designs by examining and applying both quantitative and qualitative research methods. A thesis or portfolio proposal is prepared. Prerequisites: COM502, 504 and at least 15 hours in the program.

**CORE COURSES**

Core Courses (choose 3)

■ COM601 Interpersonal Communication (3)
  An examination of interpersonal study and analysis of the relationships between interpersonal communication and group, family, gender, and intrapersonal processes. Prerequisite: COM502.

■ COM603 Group and Public Communication (3)
  Examines how personal and professional communication styles impact group dynamics, conflict, team building, leadership and public presentations. Prerequisite: COM502.

■ COM605 Mass Communication, Culture and Technology (3)
  Examines the challenges of and opportunities for living faithfully in mediated societies as new media technologies create new ways to serve people and to oppress them. Prerequisite: COM502.

■ COM607 Communication Ethics and Moral Reasoning (3)
  Case study approach to problems and issues that confront communicators in contemporary culture. Prerequisite: COM502.

■ COM609 Intercultural Communication (3)
  An analysis of intercultural communication competence, examining paralinguistic and nonverbal influences in cross cultural contexts. Theological impacts will be considered. Prerequisite: COM502.
CONCENTRATION COURSES

As a student of this program, you will choose from one of the following concentrations; it is possible to choose two concentrations. An individualized option is also available. Prerequisite for all concentrations: COM502

COMMUNICATION LEADERSHIP

■ COM510 Communication Leadership (3)
   Explores effective communication styles of effective leaders through an analysis of research and practice. (Offered in fall of odd academic years).

■ COM610 Advertising and Public Relations (3)
   Considers current research and practice in advertising and public relations. Traditional and nontraditional techniques are explored. (Offered in spring of odd academic years).

■ COM612 Conflict Resolution (3)
   Current theories of conflict resolution, with a special emphasis on biblical peacemaking.

COMMUNICATION EDUCATION

■ EDU560 Instructional Technology (3)
   Instructional Technology has been defined as “the theory and practice of the design, development, utilization, evaluation, and management of the processes and resources for human learning.” The field of Instructional Technology is concerned with the application of technology throughout the educational process. The course is an introduction to the field and theory of Instructional Technology. The course explores the multiple roles of technology in instruction and management of the learning process, with special emphasis on K-12 education. This course assumes the student has minimum competency in technology.

■ COM620 Assessing and Teaching Communication Arts (3)
   Examines teaching and assessing communication competencies, in interpersonal, small group, public, intercultural and mass media contexts.

■ COM622 Online Pedagogy (3)
   A study of best practices in online communication education. Includes emerging technologies such as social book marking and collaborative environments.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES

■ COM530 The Church in Cyberspace (3)
   Examines the religious uses of the Internet, social media and other digital technologies with a focus on creating and sustaining community and expanding cultural influence in postmodern cultures.

■ COM630 Communication in Christian Ministries (3)
   Explores effective communication techniques from a pastoral perspective, with applications for staff and volunteers. Includes speaking, writing and listening.

■ COM632 Communicating Change: Spiritual Formation and Renewal (3)
   Examines spiritual formation as transformation and develops strategies for helping others understand and apply its principles.
CASE STUDY

■ COM598 Case Study (1)
Upon completion of 12 hours or more, students in the certificate program enroll for this one hour project. The case study applies concepts from their concentration to a professional problem or opportunity.

CAPSTONE/THESIS

■ COM694 Capstone Experience (3)
The student proposes and develops a capstone project that meets department criteria regarding length, number of sources, etc. Suitable projects may include case studies, action research, portfolio pieces, academic articles, or presentations or book proposals. A philosophy of communication is also developed and career expectations and strategies are explored.

■ COM699 Thesis (by invitation only) (2)
A thesis answers a research question through the collection of data and the analysis and application of communication literature and theory. May be repeated once. Enrollment by permission only.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- A 3.0 GPA for at least the last two years of the Bachelor’s degree
- Official transcripts from previous colleges and/or universities attended
- Two recommendations from professional/academic individuals
- One recommendation from a member of the clergy in your faith community
- Recent writing sample
- Personal Goals Statement of two pages or less
- Online Computer Literacy Survey
- A completed application and current application fee

“My degree has prepared me so much for my work! It has really strengthened areas I was weak in, such as conflict resolution, and negotiation. I have a strong foundation in these now and have used my skills time and time again to help in my work and personal situations.”

Leanna Summers, MCOM