

Virtual Office Professional

Higher Education Center at San Ysidro

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General Description

The Virtual Office Professional is designed for: 1) People who want to promote and maintain all aspects of a small business on the Internet. 2) Individuals who want to work as virtual office and administrative support professionals. The basic program provides students with the skills and knowledge required to create and maintain a virtual (Web- and technology-based) business. Entrepreneurs and people involved in a variety of enterprises can learn to conduct their business online. The Virtual Office Professional—Intermediate program focuses on key skills required for positions that utilize virtual administrative support personnel, including executive assistants and office support specialists and provides further training in creating, marketing, and managing a virtual office. Topics include time management, workplace customization, evaluation of equipment and technology, communication methods that utilize advanced technologies, and business ethics. These virtual office professionals need strong computer and technology skills which can be acquired by completion of these certificate/degree programs. Students may take a career ladder approach in achieving all three levels of the program by completing the basic certificate, finding a job in the field, and continuing their education. They can then complete the intermediate certificate and the associate in science degree while continuing to work in the field.

Career Options

1) Virtual Office for Small Business Owners/Entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs and people involved in a broad variety of businesses acquire skills needed to conduct their business online. By completing the Virtual Office Professional —Basic Certificate, entrepreneurs in almost any field can develop a larger base of clients by setting up and maintaining a virtual office/business. The following list includes several majors offered by the School of Business, Professional & Technical Education at Southwestern College that can be enhanced by the addition of a Virtual Professional—Basic (or higher) certificate. The geographic area served by these businesses can expand to the national, international, or global level. These majors include: accounting, bookkeeping, payroll, computer desktop support/technician, computer programming/database, eCommerce/eBusiness, event and convention planning, financial services, hospitality and tourism, insurance, international business, logistics and transportation, legal assisting/paralegal, medical/coding/medical insurance, real estate/real estate loan processing, translation/interpretation services, travel and tourism, web design/development, as well as virtual office professional.

2) Virtual Office and Administrative Support Professionals.

The following list is a sample of the career options available for individuals who focus on virtual office skills. Most of these career options require a certificate or an associate degree; some require a bachelor's degree: virtual office assistant/receptionist, virtual office computer support specialist, virtual executive assistant, virtual secretary, virtual office manager/administrator, virtual office supervisor, virtual marketing assistant, and virtual web site support technician.

Degree/Certificate Options

Associate in Science Degree: Career/Technical

Virtual Business Office Professional

Major Code

A2454

Certificates of Achievement

Virtual Business Professional

A2458

Virtual Business Office Support Professional

A2459

Consult with a counselor to develop a Student Education Plan (SEP), which lists the courses necessary to achieve your academic goal.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Virtual Business Office Professional

Career/Technical (Major Code: A2454)

Prepares students to create a virtual (Web- and technology-based) business and how to set up a virtual office to work effectively in this environment. Emphasizes the creation, marketing, and management of the virtual office, the use of new technologies, and the development of key office support and technical skills required in the virtual environment.

BUS 135	eBusiness II: Creating an Effective Web Presence	3
BUS 140	Business Law/The Legal Environment of Business	3
BUS 182	Keyboarding for Office Professionals	2
BUS 183	Business Mathematics	3
BUS 200A	Microsoft Word: Beginning	2.5
BUS 200B	Microsoft Word: Advanced	2.5
BUS 206	Filing and Records Management	2.5
BUS 211	Communication in Business and Industry	3
	OR	
BUS 212	Business Communication	3
BUS 290–293	Cooperative Work Experience in Business I–IV	2-4
Plus the courses required for the Virtual Business Professional—Basic certificate		18–19
Total units		41.5–42.5

To earn an associate degree, additional general education and graduation requirements must be completed. See page 49.

CERTIFICATES

Virtual Business Professional

Certificate of Achievement

Career/Technical (Major Code: A2458)

Emphasizes the creation, marketing, and management of the virtual business and the use of new technologies in completing business transactions. Prepares students to work in a virtual (Web- and technology-based) office environment and provides an overview of virtual entities, including home-based businesses that are successful in today's global market.

BUS 96	Customer Service and Communication Techniques	1
BUS/CIS 129	Multimedia Presentations—PowerPoint	1
BUS 143	eStrategic Business Planning	2
BUS 191	Creating and Managing a Virtual Office	3
BUS 192	Marketing a Virtual Office	3
BUS 210	Business English	3
CIS 92	Microsoft Office Suite (3)	
	OR	3–4
CIS 101	Introduction to Computers and Information Processing (4)	
CIS/LIB 151	Research Using the Internet	1
LDR 152	Business Innovation and Creativity	1
Total units		18–19

Virtual Business Office Support Professional

Certificate of Achievement

Career/Technical (Major Code: A2459)

Prepares students to work in a virtual (Web- and technology-based) office environment. Emphasizes the creation, marketing, and management of the virtual office, the use of new technologies, and the development of key office support and technical skills required in the virtual environment.

BUS 135	eBusiness II: Creating an Effective Web Presence	3
BUS 140	Business Law/The Legal Environment of Business	3
BUS 182	Keyboarding for Office Professionals	2
BUS 183	Business Mathematics	3
BUS 200A	Microsoft Word: Beginning	2.5
BUS 200B	Microsoft Word: Advanced	2.5
BUS 206	Filing and Records Management	2.5
BUS 211	Communication in Business and Industry	
	OR	3
BUS 212	Business Communication	
BUS 290–293	Cooperative Work Experience in Business I–IV (2–4)	2
Plus the courses required for the Virtual Business Professional certificate		18–19
Total units		41.5–42.5



Some courses within this program may require additional coursework that must be completed prior to enrollment in those courses. Please consult the individual course listings for prerequisites and any other limitations on enrollment.