

FAQ's for HRTM J410 – Hotel Development in China

1. Is the course an online course?
Yes the course is an online course? All assignments, discussions and exams will be online through BlackBoard. Even instructor office hours are online!
2. Do I have to be in Columbia at USC to take the course?
No, you can complete the course from anywhere you have REGULAR internet access EVERY WEEK and can download and upload assignments.
3. Is this a SUMMER I or a Summer II course?
You must register for the course in Summer I. However the course is from June 2 until August 7. Grades for the course are posted at the end of Summer II.
4. Are there any assigned times when I must log in?
No, and Yes. Throughout the summer we try to get two or three executives in the field to chat or discuss with us online. These times are posted at least a week in advance. Some work schedules will prevent students from participating. I ask that you try to schedule your break or day so that you can at least catch a part of the session.
5. Can I complete the course at my own pace?
No, the course has assignment, discussion and exam due dates. You must complete the course work in the week assigned. You may complete it at anytime of the day or on any day that week as long as the work is completed and turned in prior to the due date for each. Failure to complete the assignments, discussion or exams on time will result in loss of grade and probable failure of the course.
6. Can I turn in work ahead of time, and complete the course early.
No, and Yes. You may turn in assignments ahead of schedule. However, discussions, chats and exams must be completed in the week assigned.
7. What if my computer breaks or I no longer have access to a home or work computer.
Libraries in many communities provide internet access. While you will NOT be able to complete the course through such limited internet access, I have yet to encounter a viable excuse for lack of computer access. Please be sure you have REGULAR internet access for the duration of the course.
8. Is there a textbook for the course or course packet?
The textbooks for this course are: Tourism in China, by Alan Yu, et.al., and Tourism and Hotel Development in China, by Hanqin Zhang. Both are published by The Haworth Hospitality Press.

There is no course packet – additional required readings beyond the textbook are posted in Blackboard
9. Will I need any special software or computer to complete the course.
You MUST have REGULAR internet access EVERY WEEK. Many of the files used are in Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat and MP3 files. You must have a software program that allows you to access, read and/or listen to these files.
10. If I do not have the prerequisites but am interested in the course, can I take the course?
No, the content in the course assumes that you have taken HRTM 260 or 560. You will not understand much of the course without the necessary background. Likewise an online course requires the participation of other students. Students who do not understand the content will weigh down or inhibit the online interaction.
11. I am a graduate student or taking the course for graduate student credit, how do I complete a research paper from a distant location?
The library has online access to most journals and many materials. If you are not familiar with how to use the online library access please see a reference librarian PRIOR to leaving for the summer.