

Southern Utah University & Best Friends Animal Society

Introduction to Animal Services (IAS)

Syllabus and Program Overview

Instructor of Record

Tawny Hammond

Email

tawnyh@bestfriends.org

Course Facilitator

Don Jennings

Email

donj@bestfriends.org

Virtual Office Hours

By appointment

Course Communications

Julie Guerra

Email

julieg@bestfriends.org

General Information

Purpose

Introduction to Animal Services (IAS) is a seven-week certificate program offering an introduction to the contemporary animal services profession. With content curated by Best Friends Animal Society and leading practitioners and researchers in the field, participants will gain an awareness and understanding of contemporary animal services as a profession.

IAS Course Work

This course features four online modules that include readings, videos, discussions, quizzes, and reflection papers. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions relevant to their modules and assignments, with the end goal of building a learning community focused on contemporary animal services as a profession. Modules include:

- **History of Animal Welfare in the United States:** Students will examine an overview of the evolution of the animal welfare movement by reviewing the origins of animal shelters, the role of public safety and the transition to animal sheltering.
- **The Role of Animal Shelters:** Students will review data related to pet ownership over the past 40 years, reasons for pet relinquishment and the role of animal-related nonprofits in the community.
- **Introduction to Contemporary Animal Services:** Students will review the programs, policies and procedures needed to save pets before they reach the animal shelter door, in the community and inside of the shelter.
- **Community Animal Services Data:** Students will research their community's animal services history and their current organization's performance metrics.

Required Text

- [*Prodigal Pets: A History of Animal Sheltering in America and the Origin of the No-Kill Movement*](#) by Susan Houser

Program Schedule

The IAS course is 7 weeks in length.

The online course syllabus will provide you with the course schedule, outcomes, explanations of assessments, grading policies, and instructor contact information. Please read it carefully. You'll need to be familiar with the schedule and process of the course.

The course is 7 weeks long - below is an outline of what we'll cover each week:

Course Overview & Introductions

- Week 1 – Pre-course survey, meet the learning team, student introductions
- Week 2 – The History of Animal Welfare in the United States
- Week 3 – The Role of Animal Shelters
- Week 4 – Introduction to Contemporary Animal Services
- Week 5 – Community Animal Services Data
- Week 6 – Modules end
- Week 7 – Course ends

Each module will include activities and assignments including:

- Readings
- Videos
- Discussion
- Reflections
- Quizzes

Navigation: The best way to flow through the course is to click BEGIN COURSE at the bottom of the Start Here page and begin with the pre-course work.

Start with the **Module Overview** page where you can see the introduction and objectives, as well as the list of activities for that module. To move through the module, click Next at the bottom of the screen.

All modules will be published on the first day of the course. You'll need to complete each module before moving on to the next one. It's up to you how and when to complete the course, however the format listed above, and the associated due dates are highly suggested.

NOTE: This course is asynchronous. Due dates for assignments are provided as a framework for progressing through the material, but ultimately all assignments are due by the final day of the course.

Key Elements to success in this course:

1. Online courses can be just as rich and rewarding as face-to-face courses, but it takes a little work on everyone's part. You'll get back as much as you put in.

2. Build relationships right away. Make sure to view introduction discussion posts and submit one of your own so we can get to know each other. As others join the conversation, please read their introductions too. Replies are part of how you're graded for discussions, so don't forget to reply to others and make natural connections.
3. Understand expectations. Online courses are convenient because we have flexibility about when to do the assignments, but they take just as much time (sometimes more) than a face-to-face course. Though this course is self-paced, try your best to stick to the due dates. This will ensure everyone is focused on the same content and that we can have robust discussions.
4. Students who set aside several short sessions throughout the week, at consistent times and days, have the most success in online courses. Brain research tells us "all-nighters" and long cramming sessions are the least effective ways to learn and retain new information.
5. Because online courses require a written presence and participation, it is important to not only read and compose your discussion board responses early in the week, but to also leave time to edit and proofread your posts and assignments.
6. Ask questions. In an online course, the instructor can't see your confusion or frustration. If you have a problem or any confusion, speak up sooner rather than later. Do not wait until the assignment is due to ask for clarification.
7. Download and save course resources you want to use often. Download reading assignments posted in the course, especially if you will be traveling or have unreliable internet so you can always do the reading.
8. Read all announcements in the course. These are messages from the instructor. They will often have notices of changes, hints, or preview upcoming assignments.
9. Check your Canvas messaging system. This is how I will communicate with you.
10. This course layout uses modules to outline the week's content in the order you should proceed. Course content and activities can be found using the Modules link to the left of your screen.

The learning team is here for you, so don't hesitate to reach out via the messaging system in Canvas - we're happy to help!

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