In keeping with the College mission of a dedication to providing educational opportunities for students and the College’s public affirmation that student learning is its highest priority, Del Mar College utilizes technology to enhance student learning and to promote access. Therefore, the technology available includes a range of technology tools and technology education and support for faculty, staff and students, including those involved with VCT courses. Del Mar College’s commitment to technology extends to its Strategic Plan 2003-2009 which dedicates one goal of a total of six specifically to Technology with sub-goals of expanding access, improving skills, and exploring new technology that supports innovation and improvement in instruction and student development.

Library technology resources are accessible to all students including distance learners and VCT students through the library’s website. In addition, the libraries provide technology via open access computer labs in the Technology Centers available on Del Mar College East and Del Mar College West. All students including campus-based VCT students have access to over 230 desktop computers in lab and casual settings as well as laptops which can be checked out for use in library study rooms. Campus-based VCT students needing to use library equipment for access to coursework have this equipment available for the 82.5 hours per week that the library is open.

The technology infrastructure at Del Mar College provides facilities and equipment to effectively offer distance learning classes, with improved connectivity to the Internet using recently upgraded and aggregated ISP connections. Current Internet connectivity has a combined total of 20 Mg bandwidth. The backbone of the on-campus and inter-campus network has the capability for audio and video streaming. The inter-campus network was recently upgraded to Gigabit connectivity. Due to the tremendous growth of distance learning and the popularity of VCT online classes, the dedicated server devoted exclusively to WebCT and online classes has been upgraded to a robust SUN Solaris V880. In addition, the college has the capabilities for television and video conferencing with a complete television production studio with editing capabilities, a master control center with fiber optic connections, video and audio dubbing stations, and three videoconferencing classrooms with Polycom H323 endpoints with portable videoconferencing units designed to be moved to any classroom needing videoconferencing.

Student assistance with the use of Web-based classroom technologies is available in a number of ways. Del Mar provides orientations to the Web-based classroom through the use of general orientations to the WebCT course environment and, optionally, specific orientations provided by the course instructor to each individual course. General WebCT orientation sessions are available in a number of delivery formats including VHS and CD-ROM-based video and campus-based in-person sessions. A video orientation to the WebCT classroom is available online at http://www.delmar.edu/webct/. Students may purchase a CD-ROM of this video for one dollar at the Department of Distance Learning or purchased mail order by special request to the department. VCT students can use the Library website to access information on using a variety of library-based learning resources. Students receive support from the Distance Learning Office and website, from the Del Mar College location and website, and from staff available at the technology centers. Additionally, Del Mar College has a Help Desk to assist student who have questions or problems with technology.

All distance learning students receive a mailing from the Distance Learning department to provide them specific information and resource availability. In the orientation sessions, students are provided a means of self-accessing their technology skills. A list of resources is provided including the physical location, email address and telephone number of the Help Desk.

Del Mar College provides for faculty input to technology planning through the Distance Learning Advisory Committee. Broad membership from academic and support units are included in the committee membership. Additionally the college has a College-wide Technology Committee which reviews plans and projects designed to provide administrative and academic support for faculty staff, and students at Del Mar College.