Continuing on its course of redefining healthcare education in Philadelphia, Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH) is offering three online programs beginning this September – Masters of Science in Chronic Care Management, Health Policy and Healthcare Quality and Safety. An online Graduate Certificate is also offered in each of these disciplines.

In addition to its online offerings, the school continues to offer a traditional Master of Public Health program.

The school’s online degree and certificate programs offer convenience and the same high quality as its on-site programs. Online courses provide the flexibility to work around your busy schedule and at your own pace – participating from anywhere that offers access to the internet.

Online does not mean “on your own.” In addition to the independence of online learning, students enjoy participating in JSPH’s thriving learning communities. Students will be introduced to the academic community at JSPH through a comprehensive online orientation, designed to provide a smooth transition into each program’s coursework, resources, and student colleagues. The move to online classes is in step with results of a recent study conducted for the Department of Education. The study, conducted by SRI International, concluded that “On average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction.”

Still, online learning is not for everyone, notes Caroline Golab, PhD, Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs at JSPH. “Success with online courses requires good organizational and time management skills. It is ideal for self-motivated and self-directed learners – those who like to work at their own, steady pace, and on their own time.”

Until fairly recently, online education amounted to little more than electronic versions of the old-line correspondence courses. That has really changed with arrival of Web-based video, instant messaging and collaboration tools.

The real promise of online education, experts say, is providing learning experiences that are more tailored to individual students than is possible in classrooms. That enables more “learning by doing,” which many students find more engaging and useful.

“Contrary to what you may think, there is more opportunity for discussion and presentation of your work,” says David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Dean of JSPH. “When you sit in a classroom and the instructor asks a question, one or two students generally respond. When the instructor asks a question online, everyone has to respond. Also, in an online course you are able to share your work with other students, not just the instructor.”

If you have any unanswered questions about online learning at JSPH, we recommend you take the quiz, Is Online Learning for Me? and look through Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), available at www.jefferson.edu/population_health/online_info.cfm.

For further information about online learning at Jefferson School of Population Health, or to register for the next informational Open House, call 215-503-5305, or visit www.jefferson.edu/population_health/.