

OLC ONLINE TEACHING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



"A faculty development and certification opportunity packed to expand and improve curriculum and program development, and online teaching to ensure it is personalized to faculty and program needs."

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Improve Online Teaching Skills in a Timely and Cost-Effective Manner

How did you hear about the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program?

I have been involved with the Online Learning Consortium since 2002 and have participated in various workshops and attended my first Online Learning Conference in 2005. Not long after that, the Online Teaching Certificate Program was announced at my institution, and it appeared to be the most cost-effective way to improve my online teaching skills in a timely manner based on my schedule and needs as a junior faculty member.

Why the need/interest in the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program?

Having taken many individual workshops and attending various webinars offered by OLC I thought that I knew everything there was to know about online education. Having been an online student and really enjoying it I remember asking myself "How difficult can it be being a faculty member?". However, after taking a teaching opportunity which required the development of a new online program, I realized how much more there is to the faculty side of online education. In 2012, my employer gave me the opportunity to register for the Online Teaching Certificate Program. I was excited to learn that they had a specialization, an Instructional Design Mastery Series. The series offered everything that I needed in terms of creating welcome videos, lectures, mix and matching activity tools to give the course variety. Learning alignment and assessment was the most beneficial in developing and designing my courses. Even though I completed the Online Teaching Certificate in 2013, I still go back and use what I learned. The final project of improving my own courses through the Online Teaching Certificate Program has stayed with me in my course development and instructional design activities until today. In fact, now that the Advanced Online Teaching Certificate is available, that is something I am considering as a way of staying updated with the ever-changing course management systems which are moving to a mobile-friendly environment.

TOP PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Proficiency as an online educator in applying best practices for more effective teaching for beginner and advanced online learners.
- A better understanding of key concepts of online course design and instruction. Specifically, developing content for interdisciplinary learning in one course.
- A better understanding of online course plan, syllabus and assessment measures in an online course.
- Integrating conceptual and theoretical foundations relating to learning theory and assessment as it relates to my field.
- Working with experts in the field provided a better understanding for online programs to have a peer review process in place for quality improvement.



Take your online teaching skills to the next level.

OLC's Online Teaching Certificate program will prepare you for the conception, implementation, and administration of online learning effectiveness and best practices. You'll collaborate with and learn from recognized experts. Plus, you'll begin applying learning outcomes immediately. We offer an advanced program, too.

Visit www.onlinelearning-c.org/certificate

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How did the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program help you in your position/career?

The Online Teaching Certificate Program has significantly helped me apply foundational online learning theories to course design. My teaching and research in online education focus on the assessment of course design on learning outcomes. The program also taught me that revising a current course may need to be done in stages. This allows me to verify course alignment for content, determine what changes have improved the quality of learning and what still needs improvement. In designing a new course, the program has taught me the importance of documenting a course map/blueprint during the development process. This allows me to keep the course content and learning activities aligned with the course objectives.

To whom and why you would recommend the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program?

The Online Teaching Certificate is beneficial for all faculty (adjuncts, junior faculty, senior faculty), who have been teaching but may not have gotten official training in online teaching. This is especially true for those working with adult learners and teaching courses from multiple disciplines.

The Online Teaching Certificate option which includes the Foundational Course + 3 Workshops, is beneficial for faculty interested in a variety of individual areas to build skills and best practices in online teaching. These may be a variety of workshops focusing on leadership, online design and tools.

The Online Teaching Certificate option, which includes the Foundational Course + Mastery Series is beneficial for those who would like to focus on a specific area. For example, prospectus program directors and program coordinators may be interested in the Leadership in Online Learning Mastery Series. Other faculty looking for new innovative ways to design courses may be interested in the Instructional Design Mastery Series. The Blended Learning Mastery Series may be beneficial for those faculty who teach courses which require both on campus and online activities.

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About Margaret

Currently, I am a Non-Tenured teaching faculty in an Online Health Masters Informatics Program within the Department of Biomedical and Health Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). My focus is on Consumer Health Informatics using general tools such as the web browser, social media, mobile devices and virtual augmented reality for improving lifestyles and finding valid health information. It includes project-based learning in developing health information for consumers/patients in and out of the clinic. It addresses both patient health and digital literacy levels. Other courses include Introduction to Health Care Information Systems and Health IT Evaluation where students assess the usability of technology for the professional and how digital literacy may also be an issue. The courses focus on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of technology in health care. In all courses my instructional design interests have been helpful. As the use of technology regardless of the field has basic challenges of how information is presented, user training and the usability of technology. In addition to teaching, I serve on the Curriculum Committee where we are currently assessing and evaluating courses to meeting the course objectives and the overall mission of the program.

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