

**"The Online Teaching Certificate Program's use of workshops and mentor-based guidance is the perfect combination for those who want to improve their online teaching ability in a format that is manageable for faculty with limited time for professional development."**

*Anthony Schumacher, PhD, Assistant Professor and Program Director, Ethical Leadership Studies,  
Thomas More University*



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## Become a more effective online educator

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

Thomas More University sponsored a group of faculty and staff to complete the Online Teaching Certificate Program through the Online Learning Consortium. OLC is a valuable resource for best practices in online education.

**Why the need/interest in the OLC Teaching Certificate Program?** I am a firm believer in the opportunities that online education can provide to non-traditional students. My first 12 years in higher education were spent in a capacity that involved a great deal of interaction with non-traditional students who were trying to balance work, family, and school. Understandably, school was the one removed from the equation. Online education provides the flexibility that non-traditional students need.

Completing this certificate program has provided me with resources and a better understanding of how to ensure quality in my online courses. It seems that some faculty believe that online classes are secondary to face-to-face classes. I do not agree with that theory. In fact, I believe that online classes are often held to a higher standard and face more scrutiny than face-to-face classes. Therefore, it is essential that online faculty hold themselves accountable in order to create and facilitate a high-quality experience for their students.

**How did this program help you in your position/career?** As a professor, I am always interested in improving my teaching methods. I believe the Online Teaching Certificate Program has made me a more effective teacher. The program enabled me to take a step back and view an online course from a holistic perspective. We often become focused on weekly tasks while neglecting the full picture. The workshops and feedback from my mentor enabled me to move beyond the week-to-week approach and focus on the course as a complete project. The program has also allowed me to share my revised approach to online teaching with other faculty.

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

I would recommend the Online Teaching Certificate for anyone who has an interest in teaching online or who has already started teaching online classes. I also think it is valuable for administrators who will be encouraging faculty to teach online or those who are responsible for overseeing faculty who teach online. This program will make faculty better online teachers and administrators who complete the program will be better equipped to discuss online education with faculty who may be skeptical.

### OLC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM BENEFITS:

1. Approach online courses from a holistic perspective
2. Utilize personal feedback to improve student retention
3. Learn that rubrics are a valuable grading and feedback resource
4. Share knowledge learned in the program with other faculty members
5. Learn ways to strategically use faculty time when providing feedback



### About Anthony

Anthony has worked in higher education for nearly 14 years as an academic advisor, program director, and faculty member. He believes in the opportunities provided by higher education and the contributions of online programs toward assisting students in improving their lives and communities.



### 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. Interested? Visit [www.onlinelearning-c.org/OTC](http://www.onlinelearning-c.org/OTC)*