

Online Teaching Certificate Program

The quality of student learning is directly, although not exclusively, related to the quality of teaching. By improving teaching in the student-centered learning environment, the learning can also improve.

Universities focused on student success as a primary outcome realize that instructional support must go beyond subject matter expertise by making efforts to:

- Connect faculty to students
- Connect students to faculty and to each other in online learning communities
- Familiarize students with the capabilities of online learning technologies
- Connect students to online support resources
- Help students understand the long-term impact of positive study habits

The Franklin University Online Teaching Certificate Program ensures that these outcomes are met while setting an expectation that faculty members establish positive online and blended learning environments for students. Similarly, students will be encouraged to engage in positive classroom and chat room discourse with other students and with faculty.

What is the Online Teaching Certificate Program?

Program Description:

The Online Teaching Certificate Program will introduce teaching and learning theories, and orient instructors to the many uses of instructional technologies available in preparation for teaching their first class. Participants will explore ways to create a student-centered learning community with students in online and blended instructional delivery formats. This program is designed to enhance participants' abilities to:

- Manage a team environment
- Resolve issues with difficult students
- Offer students constructive feedback through grading



The program was developed by Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. and has been specialized to include a greater emphasis on the online learning environment in collaboration with the Saudi Electronic University. Franklin University was established more than 110 years ago and has built its reputation on educating working professionals by eliminating barriers to higher education. A nonprofit, regionally accredited University, Franklin is widely regarded as a pioneer in online learning. The University serves nearly 10,000 students annually through numerous Midwest locations and in partnership with universities around the world.

How will the program be taught?

The program is three weeks long. The first and third weeks are taught online through Blackboard and the second week is taught face to face in computer labs. All three weeks are mandatory. The on campus training is four days, with six hours of instruction per day. Participants will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the program.



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What will you learn?

Program Outcomes:

1. Identify contemporary teaching and learning methodologies that support a variety of learning styles.

Historically, higher education has employed a teacher-centered approach – with the teacher as the center of activity and the single source of knowledge. However, with the advent of technology and the increased demand for online learning, there is now more interaction between learners, as well as a greater focus on the student. In order to best facilitate learning for the student, the instructor must have an understanding of various learning styles. Learning styles to be explored in this program include:

- Experiential learning
- Kolb Studies of Teaching and Learning
- Bloom's Taxonomy

2. Identify and summarize the learning styles and characteristics of a student-centered learning environment.

Beginning with the identification and discussion of different learning styles common to the characteristics of students who will enroll, participants will then discuss and share best practices to transition from a teacher-centered approach to a student-centered learning environment. A student-centered environment:

- Enables an educator to deal effectively with all types of learners in the same classroom
- Encourages students to become independent learners
- Shifts the focus of activity from the teacher to the learners

3. Apply effective teaching and evaluative strategies in a student-centered learning environment.

Building on the comprehension of the different learning styles and characteristics of a student-centered learning environment, the program introduces different technology-based learning tools and activities that foster active engagement of learning in the online and blended environment. The program also highlights useful strategies to measure the effectiveness of teaching strategies, technology, and other resources in relation to student success.

Technology of various types can greatly assist both the student and the teacher in the student-centered environment. Educational technology can be classified into the following schema:

- Illustrative technologies (PowerPoint software)
- Manipulative technologies (spreadsheets)
- Environmental technologies
- Extension technologies (Blackboard)
- Connective technologies (Blackboard, email, facebook)

4. Demonstrate effective communication in online and blended learning environments.

The evaluation of how well a faculty member is leading the classroom assessment is an ongoing process, perhaps best thought of as the creation and maintenance of a classroom "feedback loop." This program will focus on best practices and strategies to develop communication, feedback, and assessment throughout all online and face-to-face activities.

Program activities will include the opportunity for participants to practice effective communication and feedback to students through role playing, demonstrations, and grading assignments.

5. Apply knowledge of technical tools to teach both face-to-face and online classes.

Technology-enhanced teaching and learning supports various learning styles, teaching methodologies, and effective communication and feedback to facilitate a student-centered learning environment. A broad range of technical tools, their purposes, and the opportunity to experiment and apply the use of the technology in different formats will be covered in this program. Some broad categories to be discussed and reviewed include:

- Communication tools
- Presentation tools
- Grade book tools
- Research tools
- Productivity tools

