



ISLANDER eLEARNING NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2015

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Certificates Program

Would you like to earn a Certificate of Professional Development in Best Practices for Online Course Design, but feel like you don't have the time? ODELT wants to work with you! We offer faculty a variety of options to complete the requirements to earn a certificate and you can mix and match options. Pick the combination of options that works best for you. You can accumulate credit for different workshops over time. All sessions are open to drop-ins; feel free to take any one session on its own or as a refresher. We keep records of your efforts for you.

- [Credit for Prior Learning in Online Teaching](#)
- Weekly two-hour meetings, both spring and fall semesters
- Intensive online-courses both spring and fall semesters
- Week-long sessions every August, December, January, and May
- On-demand with a big enough group
- One-on-one as needed



The next offering will take place May 18-22, 2015, Mon-Fri, 8:30 - 5:00pm in CCH 113. Visit <https://iol.tamucc.edu/certificates.html> for more information, including registration and/or contact [Amanda Alvarez](#), (361) 825 - 2122. The Certificate of Professional Development in Best Practices for Online Course Design is only required for new faculty.



ChangeCast: Dr. David Gurney

Dr. David Gurney talks about how online classes have improved his teaching methods.

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Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:

Softchalk instructional authoring software— CCH 123

- Wed, April 29th, 10am - 12pm - [click to register](#)
- Tue, May 12th, 2pm-4pm - [click to register](#)
- Wed, May 27th, 10am - 12pm - [click to register](#)

Qualtrics survey development and analyses software— CCH 123

- Tue, May 26th, 10 am – 11 am - <https://iol.tamucc.edu/qualtrics.html>

Student Workshops

Blackboard and IT Resources orientations are held at the beginning of each semester. The 90 minute workshop provides an overview of Blackboard navigation and hands-on activities to learn tools such as the discussion forum, wikis, blogs, journals, and quizzes. Workshops are also available using WebEx online meetings. Please tell students about the upcoming workshops:

Day/Date	Time	Location
Monday, June 1, 2015	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	CCH 123
Tuesday, June 2, 2015	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	CCH 123
Monday, July 6, 2015	4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	CCH 123
Monday, July 6, 2015	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	CCH 123
Tuesday, July 7, 2015	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	CCH 123

Faculty members can also request a **20 minute Blackboard Overview** workshop for their class on campus. We can design a student workshop specific to your class needs. Contact us at 351-825-2122 to schedule a consultation and session.

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Three Credit Hour Course Offered to Doctoral Students

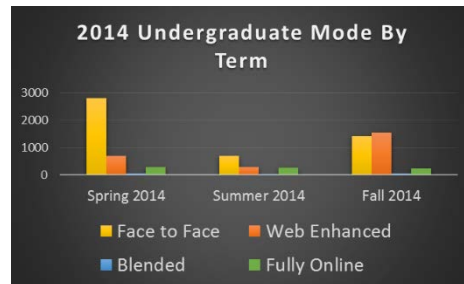
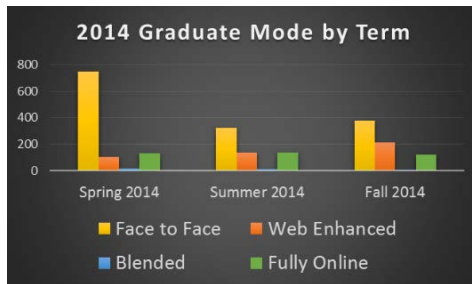
EDCI-6390.W01; Online Course Design and Review, or IDET-6370.W01; Online Course Design and Review will be offered beginning Fall 2015. Encourage your students to register. Students can graduate from TAMU-CC with a certificate in online course design, development, and teaching in addition to receiving three credit hours by taking this online course for students in all departments.



By the Numbers: The Effects of Online Courses on Retention at TAMU-CC and the Breakdown of Course Designations

Some instructors worry that online courses negatively affect retention of Islander students. You will be happy to know that the statistics are in. As of Fall 2013 for first-time graduate students the odds of returning are slightly higher when the student takes at least one fully online course. For first-time freshmen there was no relationship between retention and having taken a fully online course. In other words, students who took at least one fully online course were retained to the same extent as those students who took all face-to-face courses.

All TAMU-CC courses were designated as F-F, Web Enhanced, Blended, or Fully Online. For purposes of continuity of learning, a mission is for all courses to be at least web-enhanced. Numbers of 2014 undergraduate and graduate course designations are illustrated in the graph.



Laptops and Docking Stations Recommended For Flexibility and Continuity of Learning

When it comes time to update your workstation, consider replacing your desktop computer with a laptop and docking station. You will have complete mobility to ensure that you have the flexibility to work wherever and whenever you want to. In addition, should we need to evacuate campus, you would have the means to support student learning from off campus. Go to http://it.tamucc.edu/hardware_software/hardwarerecommendations.html to see specifications recommended by our campus Information Technology Services.

Upcoming Classroom Response System Solutions

Turning Technology clickers: The UTC formed a committee to review Classroom Response System solutions. Using a matrix, based on specific categories and requirements for the classroom response systems, the committee reviewed Turning Technologies, IClicker, Qwizdom, and Poll Everywhere. In consideration of gathered information, vendor service agreements, and other documents and information obtained from faculty, Turning Technologies was selected as the recommended product on the basis of how they measured against their competitors on the items listed in the matrix. Turning Technologies can be used for polling questions when the instructor would like the students to reply with a numeric or text response, and it also allows for self-paced testing and sending messages to instructors during class. Retail to the students will be approximately \$55.00, and this will include a one-year subscription to the mobile device license. Turning Technologies will pay a student employee \$8.00/hour for up to 20 hours per week, for 40 weeks out of the year to provide user support for the campus.



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Turnitin Plagiarism Detection in Blackboard

The **Turnitin Direct Building Block** extension gives users of the Blackboard Learning System the ability to use Turnitin products within their Blackboard interface. Turnitin provides plagiarism prevention services, class management tools, and paperless digital grading products. The Turnitin Building block will become available in May. View [User Manual](#) or contact ODELT with questions.

Blackboard FAQ

If you would like to rename your development shell – send an email to itrequests@tamucc.edu with you're a number, user name, and full development shell name (copy/paste from Bb)

NBC Learn

You can access NBC Learn Higher Ed through Blackboard and by navigating to: <http://higher.ed.nbclearn.com>. The links are available from the [Distance Education](#) and the [Library](#) page. Providing newscasts in your classes can help students understand the relevance of your course content. We hope you enjoy getting to know NBC Learn and we are always happy to answer any questions that you may have.



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