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| Description:  The Exemplary Course Program Cohort Training (ECP) Course is a four week online course that will prepare certified online instructors to design a course that reflects best practices for designing, engaging, assessing, and supporting learners within the online environment of the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS).  Creating effective online courses is crucial to teaching today’s active learners and course design is a developmental process that includes: creating an instructional plan—the details of how content will be presented to students, learning materials for the student that are chosen and/or developed, activities created that encourage students to apply the content [this is where the pedagogical methods that facilitate learning come into play] and assessment methods that are selected to evaluate student learning in context of learning objectives. | Duration:  20 hours of instruction.    Format of workshop  Online week: Monday at 12am to Sunday at 11:59pm  Prerequisites  Blackboard Basic & Advanced, HOT, and PYT  Objectives:   * Discover the pillars of an exemplary course * Adapt the principles of an exemplary course to build one’s own course structure and materials * Integrate the pillars into course development |

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

To maximize benefits of participation in this cohort, assignments will be given each week that provide guidance for applying the principles to build one’s own course structure and materials. The course will provide a framework for participants to use the Wilmington University Online Course Development Rubric to self-evaluate their course-building work.

**Design Assignments:**

* Template: Provide a Start Here introduction that you would use in your online course.
* Navigation and Presentation:  Choose one assignment for your online course and write clear instructions
* Technology Use: Write short descriptions of how three different tools will be used in your course

**Engagement Assignments:**

* Communication Strategies: Write a starter post for a discussion forum or other interactive tool that initiates communication among learners and promotes critical thinking.
* Development of a Learning Community: Write a short description of how you will promote student-to-instructor or student-to-student communication in your course.
* Groups: Describe one assignment that will incorporate group work.

**Assessment Assignments:**

* Objectives: Find 2-3 objectives from your course generic syllabus and create an assessment/assignment that aligns with those objectives.
* Assignments and Assessments: Write a short description of how two or more assessment techniques will be used in your course and why these techniques are suitable to the goals of the course.
* Rubrics and Grading Criteria: Write instructions for an assignment for your course including how the assignment will be graded.

**Resources and Support:**

* Web Accessibility: Provide an example of how to create content that applies the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and makes it accessible to all students, including those that may have a disability.
* Feedback: Write a survey that will solicit feedback from your students regarding design and delivery at certain benchmarks throughout the term.
* Intuitive Navigation: Describe how to create a course environment that is intuitive and easy to navigate.

**Training Course Completion Badge and Certificate:**

This badge is awarded for successful completion of all five topic areas in the course "Designing an Exemplary Course." Earning this badge indicates that the learner has committed a significant amount of time to studying exemplary course design, engagement, assessment, and resources and support. This badge is awarded based on contributions to the course. The Certificate of Completion provides a portable, verified, digital record of your participation in and completion of this course.

**ONLINE WEEK**

The online week runs from Monday at 12am to Sunday at 11:59pm.

**Evaluation Structure:**

This cohort will utilize Achievements to award badges for each section of the cohort (Cohort Overview, Design, Engagement, Assessment, and Resources and Support) that is completed.

Please note that all work in this training course must be completed on time each week. If you do not complete the work on time, you will be asked to join another section of ECP.

**Achievements:**

Being rewarded is a powerful extrinsic motivator. One of the best rewards is recognition for a job well done!

The Achievements tool in Blackboard Learn allows instructors and course designers to define criteria for issuing rewards to students in the form of both Badges and Certificates. Students can see which rewards they've earned and what is required of them to receive additional rewards, providing insight into learning progression toward defined competencies. Students are able to publish badges to the Mozilla Open Backpack, transporting evidence of their learning outside the LMS. Instructors can easily see which students have reached learning milestones.

Schedule and Checklist of Assignments:

Note: All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the day of the week listed under Due Date.

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|  | **Assignments** | **Due Date** |
| **Week 1** | Cohort Overview | Sunday |
|  | Introductory Discussion | Sunday |
|  | Course Design Assignments | Sunday |
|  | Week 1 Discussion | Initial post by Thursday; response post by Sunday |
| **Week 2** | Engagement Assignments | Sunday |
|  | Week 2 Discussion | Initial post by Thursday; response post by Sunday |
| **Week 3** | Assessment Assignments | Sunday |
|  | Week 3 Discussion | Initial post by Thursday; response post by Sunday |
| **Week 4** | Resources and Support Assignments | Sunday |
|  | Week 4 Discussion | Initial post by Thursday; response post by Sunday |