Syllabus: Teaching Students in Blended Classrooms

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course prepares educators to teach in blended classroom environments. Participants will learn effective strategies for engaging, instructing and assessing students in blended environments and explore the ways blended learning can effectively support standards-based teaching and learning in all subject areas. Participants will learn techniques to foster student collaboration in an online learning community through discussion and group projects. In addition, participants will learn to meet the learning needs of all students by selecting and using a variety of teaching strategies that aid in personalizing learning for students. During this course, participants will learn about and practice using tools to teach critical thinking skills, explore student academic integrity issues and the safe and legal use of online resources. Additionally, participants will learn about and practice using instructor tools in a course management system. Course content includes online readings, web-based and multimedia activities, and facilitated online discussions.

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be prepared to teach in blended learning environments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

During this course, participants will learn skills and strategies to:

- Identify the models of blended learning environments.
- Select a model for implementation in their own classrooms.
- Design coherent instruction by creating group projects that promote problem-solving and collaboration in a blended environment.
- Use course management system instructor tools, and other tools, to organize and manage the online portion of the blended learning environment.
- Demonstrate knowledge of resources for teaching and for student use.
- Facilitate online discussions and utilize effective questioning techniques to clarify and extend students' thinking.
- Promote student engagement in a blended course
- Use teaching strategies to address the different ways students learn in a blended environment.
- Select, design and use online assessment strategies aligned with established learning goals.
- Become familiar with the concepts that the "teaching of technology literacy skills should not be separate from the curriculum" and demonstrate an understanding of the Technology Literacy Standards.

MAIN CURRICULUM THEMES/CONTENT:

- Understanding the instructional shifts that need to take place when moving to a blended learning classroom
- Identify the various models of blended learning strategies for engaging students in student-to-teacher, student-to-student, student-to-content and student-to-online resource interactions
- Using the Course Management System's Instructor Tools
- Leading Meaningful Online Discussions
- Strategies for meeting the diverse learning needs of students in blended courses
- Assessment strategies for blended learning environments

ASSESSMENT:

Participate Actively in Course

- Participants will complete all required course activities and readings.
- Participants will visit and post in the online discussion board at least twice per week of the course. Participants are expected to allow a minimum of three hours per week for the online discussion.
- Weekly postings are due each week before the start of the next week's session; participants are evaluated on the timeliness of postings in addition to content.
- Contributions to the Online Discussion: Participants are expected to actively participate in each session's online discussion according to the discussion criteria and actively build the course learning community.

Planning Template for Blended Students:

- Participants will submit a 3–5 page Blended Learning Classroom Plan that uses instructional strategies learned in the workshop.

Evaluation of Learning: Participants will submit a 3-5 page self-assessment of their participation and learning in the course.

- The self-assessment will include reflective responses to the following questions:
- What were your greatest challenges and successes as a learner in this online course?
- Based on this experience, what strategies will you employ to help your students in a blended environment?

Schedule and Expectations:

This course is scheduled to take approximately 45 hours. Participants are expected to complete all assignments and actively participate in discussion forums. Participants needing assistance should contact their facilitator promptly.

Statement of Academic Honesty:
All students are held to high standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional