



Designing Exemplary Courses

Workshop Content

Once instructors and course builders have mastered the features and functions of Blackboard Learn Ultra, they will be ready for advanced training around designing and constructing high-quality, instructionally sound courses. Using the Blackboard Exemplary Course Program rubric as a guide, this workshop prepares participants to transform a current course from an informational resource to an interactive learning environment.

Individuals will participate in practical exercises to help plan the overall architecture of their courses and will engage in the discussion and implementation of best practices during guided course development periods. At the end of the workshop, participants will build an instructional unit to use as a model for future course development.

Workshop Materials and Requirements

The workshop is designed to assist with modifying an existing course or building a new course. If building a new course, participants enrolled in the Designing Exemplary Courses workshop should bring the following materials to the training:

- Course syllabus, course outline, and/or assignment schedule
- External Web site addresses with a short description for each link
- Names and descriptions of at least two course content discussions
- Content for at least one lesson or unit of instruction. Materials may include the topic or introduction, unit learning objectives, lecture notes, handouts, exercises, required and optional reading lists, Web site addresses for reference sites, assignment schedule, readings, etc.
- One or more course-related assessments

Workshop Topics

Designing Exemplary Courses

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Define elements of an exemplary course.
- Identify areas for improving or developing your course.

Sample Topics

- Define Exemplary Courses
- Identify Exemplary Course Components
- Review Evaluation Rubrics
- Discuss Course Development or Improvement Plan

Course Design

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Identify structures and processes to make courses Student Navigation Friendly.
- Create clear learning objectives.
- Review course content for quality and clarity.

Sample Topics

- Discuss Instructional Design Basics
- Design Effective Course Navigation and Organizational Structures
- Enhance Learner Experiences with Quality Content
- Identify Common Accessibility Components
- Explore Alternative Content Presentation Techniques
- Guided Development Time for Course Navigation, Structure, and Content

Interaction and Collaboration

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Identify collaborative learning opportunities.
- Explore strategies for enabling successful group work.
- Evaluate the use of rubrics in collaborative work.

Sample Topics

- Develop Plans: Student-to-Student and Student-to-Instructor Interaction
- Identify Icebreaker Activities
- Discuss Evaluation Criteria for Collaborative Activities
- Create Rubrics
- Determine Alternative Uses for Online Discussions and Collaborative Activities
- Guided Development Time for Adding Collaborative Activities

Assessment

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Review course assessment activities to match learning objectives.
- Review activities for clarity in expectations and grading criteria.
- Discuss methods for developing accountability.

Sample Topics

- Measure Student Learning and Achievement
- Identify Tools to Support Instructional Outcomes
- Use Authentic Assessment
- Design Effective Test and Assignment Questions
- Use Rubrics to Measure Achievement
- Communicate Accountability Techniques
- Guided Development Time for Adding Assessments

Learner Support

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Perform a gap analysis to identify any additional resources needed to support learners.
- Determine sourcing for any additional resources and materials that need to be

developed.

- Develop a plan to address identified accessibility and technical issues.

Sample Topics

- Provide Learner Resources
- Identify Resources Available at Your Own Institution
- Locate Resources Available Online
- Brainstorm Additional Resources That May Be Needed by Your Audience
- Guided Development Time for Adding Learner Support Resources

Workshop Showcase

By the end of this segment, participants should be able to:

- Participate in workshop showcase.

Sample Topics

- Share Your Course Design for Peer Discussion and Review

Who Should Attend?

Course instructors, course designers, course builders and support personnel using Blackboard Learn Ultra.

Prerequisite

Participants must possess working knowledge of Blackboard Learn Ultra.

Delivery Duration and Modality

Remote Delivery: A module is delivered in a two-hour synchronous virtual session with optional, independent follow-up activities.

Onsite Delivery: Onsite delivery takes place during two consecutive days. Each module is delivered in a three-hour timeframe. This includes time set aside for hands-on practice.