

Foundations in Online University Teaching Skills Certificate

The purpose of the Foundations in Online University Teaching Skills certificate is to promote the development of instructors in their journey toward transformative teaching by expanding their ability to offer pedagogically sound instruction in virtual classroom environments. Designed for instructors seeking an entry point into distance teaching, this certificate introduces key principles of online course design and evidence-based teaching practices for distance formats. The certificate can be earned by completing **seven (7) Effective Teaching Credits**, which include a variety of pedagogically-focused activities in online teaching, as well as **writing a reflection essay**. Because the certificate is the result of an ongoing process of learning and reflection, participants are required to allow a minimum of two semesters to complete it. Below is the breakdown of the requirements and electives that comprise the Effective Teaching Credits. Additional information about this certificate is available at <http://slu.edu/ctl>.

<p>Requirements Requirements comprise six (6) Effective Teaching Credits.</p>
<p>Introduction to Distance Teaching (two credits)</p> <p>An intensive, two-week asynchronous course that provides a pedagogical foundation for instructors who are new to the online teaching environment.</p>
<p>Three (3) One-Week, Asynchronous Online Courses in Distance Teaching (one credit each, for a total of three credits)</p> <p>Choose a <u>minimum</u> of three online courses; an additional online course counts toward elective credit.</p> <p>Topics vary each semester, approximately 2-3 online courses offered each semester.</p> <p>*Must complete Introduction to Distance Teaching as a prerequisite for taking any online courses. **Some online courses require additional prerequisites, which will be posted at the time of registration.</p>
<p>Reflection on Online Teaching Development (one credit)</p> <p>Culminating reflection essay that highlights how the participant has applied or plans to apply evidence-based online teaching practices and articulates goals for continued growth as an online instructor.</p> <p>For a full explanation of the required contents of the capstone, please see below or visit our Reinert Center website (http://slu.edu/ctl).</p>

<p>Electives Choose one (1) of the following electives to fulfill the remaining Effective Teaching Credit.</p>
<p>Distance Learning Workshops (one half (1/2) credit for each workshop, for a maximum of two (2) workshops)</p> <p>Topics vary each semester, approximately 3-4 workshops offered each semester.</p>
<p>Additional One-Week, Asynchronous Online Course in Distance Teaching (one credit)</p> <p>Topics vary each semester, approximately 2-3 online courses offered each semester.</p>
<p>Asynchronous Small Group Instructional Feedback (ASGIF) Session + Consultation (one credit)</p> <p>Conducted by Reinert Center Staff at the <u>midpoint of the term</u>.</p> <p>*ASGIFs are not offered for four (4) or six (6) week online courses.</p>
<p>NB: Credits from other Reinert Center certificates cannot be used for or transferred to this certificate.</p> <p>It is <u>recommended</u> that participants complete required coursework and the elective credit in four (4) semesters and submit the reflection within one (1) year of completing these credits.</p>

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Reflection on Online Teaching Development

Reflection on Online Teaching Development Requirement

The Reflection on Online Teaching Development is a narrative-type essay (at least one page long) in which you **reflect critically** on what you have learned about online teaching, yourself as an online teacher, and your approach to designing and facilitating an online course. In this reflection, you have the opportunity to examine how the specific experiences you have had during the Certificate Program have changed (or not) your thinking about online teaching and learning, and how you hope to continue your development as an online teacher in the future.

The reflection should include discussion of the following points:

1. **A description** of your overall development as an online teacher during your time in the program;
2. **Examples** from some of the online courses and other requirements completed for Effective Teaching Credit, pointing to lessons or ideas that have changed the way you think about online teaching and/or learning;
3. **Examples** of any online teaching experience you may have had during this period, focusing on how you applied lessons learned in the program;
4. **Personal learning goals** for the future based on how you have grown through the program and where you are now in your online teaching development.

One last thing to keep in mind: while you must include the components described above, the essay should stem from your own individualized reflection and consideration of your particular experience. This means the essay will look different (in terms of formatting, emphasis, etc.) for everyone.

Questions for Reflection

To stimulate your thinking, you might consider some or all of the following questions as you reflect on your development (you are not required to respond to these questions; they are simply to help you get started with your reflection):

1. Where were you in your thinking about online teaching when you began the Certificate Program?
2. What did you know, believe, or assume about how students learn in a distance format when you began the program?
3. How has your understanding of online teaching and/or learning changed?
4. What lessons will stay with you from the online courses you completed? How have they informed your views about online teaching/learning?
5. What actions may you take next in light of your learning to continue to develop yourself as an online teacher?