

ONLINE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

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Welcome to the Online Instructor Certification Program. My name is Lindsey Mercer. I will be one of two facilitators in the course. My colleague, Victor Ventor, is the co-facilitator. You can learn more about him in the Get Started module.

A little bit about me, I am a musician. I have probably put about 10,000 hours into this instrument-- this is a harmonica, if you can't tell. If you want to hear me play though, you have to go to the Introductions discussion board and post something interesting about you.

I moved to Tampa to pursue a master's degree in Instructional Technology here at USF within the College of Education. About two months into my program, I met somebody who was employed here at USF supporting faculty on Blackboard. I decided to buddy up with him, and he got me a job.

And since that time I have probably worked with hundreds of faculty on hundreds of courses. And if there's one thing that I've learned in all that time, it's that every course and every instructor is different. It's not a one-size-fits-all approach. Now, that being said, there are universal best practices that do apply applicability to all courses, and that's one of many objectives that we have set up for you in the course. You're going to learn about these best practices and things that you can do to enhance the quality and save time.

A little more about the course and working through it, it is a six-module course delivered over five weeks. Each module will be released per week. So your first week, you have a Get Started module and Module One. And then each module will be released every week thereafter.

Within the course you have a series of activities, exercises, assignments, and discussion postings, OK. So, make sure you keep up and don't fall behind, because collaboration is a key element to this. And I want to make sure that you all are collaborating and learning from each other.

Within each module, you can expect to spend one to three hours contact time-- assignments, content, all these different things. It depends on your own pacing and what you want to get out of it. So our goal isn't to enable you to create and fully develop an online course. For those of you who have worked with our Online Course Development team, you know that's a very extensive process. Now, that's not our goal here.

Our goal is just to introduce to you, like I said, the best practices, and provide you with a bunch of stuff that will ramp up the quality. So that about covers it. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Victor or myself. Or, as you will see, within each module we have a dedicated forum just to answering questions. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Thanks.