



Center for Distributed Learning

New Initiatives Update

Spring 2011

For additional CDL information: <http://online.ucf.edu>

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IDL6543 Redesign

While the IDL6543 program has been successful at preparing faculty to develop and deliver online and blended courses, it has remained largely unchanged since its introduction in the mid 1990s. Based upon feedback received from deans, associate deans, department chairs, and instructional faculty, CDL decided to conduct an analysis of the program's current curriculum and delivery and determine what changes should be made.

During the Spring of 2010, CDL formed a committee of faculty and administrators from across the university to drive the program analysis and provide recommendations for revision. The committee consisted of Dawn Trouard, Susan Wegmann, Alicia Janowski, Max Croft, Ronnie Korosec, Tad Hara, and Kevin Yee. CDL faculty/staff on the committee were Tom Cavanagh (co-chair), Linda Futch (co-chair), Nancy Swenson, and Baiyun Chen.

The committee polled colleagues who had completed IDL6543, benchmarked alternative practices at other institutions both local and national, and provided a list of recommendations to CDL. Among the many recommendations included suggestions to place more of the curriculum online, expand the role of the Web Veterans, allow more flexibility to accommodate varying levels of technical competence, increase the enrollment cap, and focus less on pure pedagogy and more on how instructional design can be applied specifically in an online environment.

The curriculum is currently being revised and the pilot for the revision is targeted for a Summer 2011 delivery.

Online Faculty Readiness Assessment

Based upon conversations with deans and department chairs, CDL understands that more and more faculty are being hired with experience teaching online, thus prompting a question about whether or not they need to participate in IDL6543. However, because there are numerous models for teaching online, there is no clear definition of what "prior online teaching experience" means. UCF prides itself on developing the highest quality online courses (as evidenced by numerous awards) and must ensure that new faculty who are exempted from IDL6543 meet the university's (and SACS's) expectations for quality design and delivery of online courses.

As a result of these requests from deans and department chairs, CDL developed an online form intended for selected faculty to determine if their experience, competence, familiarity with the Blackboard Vista platform, and teaching philosophy meet CDL standards. The submitted information and course design artifacts are evaluated by instructional designers according to a

defined rubric. It is expected that a final assessment will result in one of several possible results: IDL6543 equivalency, a requirement to complete specific elements from IDL6543 or other programs (including technical instruction on the course management system), a requirement to complete a different professional development program, or a requirement to complete IDL6543 in its entirety. The time commitment from a faculty member to complete the instrument is not trivial—it expected to take several hours to prepare and submit. However, this is a fraction of the 80 hour time commitment required by the IDL6543 program. (<http://www.cdl.ucf.edu/ofra/>)

Faculty Seminars in Online Teaching

These are advanced topics “beyond IDL6543.” They can be pedagogically-oriented (e.g., how to facilitate groups in online courses, how to facilitate large online classes) or technology-oriented (e.g., integrating iTunes U, using Gradebook formulas).

They will be workshop based, available live or online, short, and flexible (we will come to colleges and departments to facilitate). They will be co-facilitated by an instructional faculty member and a CDL instructional designer. Departments can choose from one of several pre-developed seminars or can develop a custom program.

First session is January 27 (*Designing Effective Online Assessments*: Bobby Hoffman and Denise Lowe).

New Online Student Orientation

Current orientation within Webcourses is exclusively technical. The revision will also include expectations for online students, success strategies, video tips from fellow students, etc.

Learn 9.x Migration

A new LMS platform is coming within the next 18 months. Several expanding pilots starting in the 2011/2012 Academic Year.

Webcourses for All

With the new LMS we hope to be able to provide a default Webcourses shell for all university courses, regardless of modality, that the faculty may elect to choose without a training requirement. However, certain features/tools may be unavailable until Essentials training is completed. The expectation is that this will replace *myUCF Grades*.

Mobility

Mobile Central and Mobile Learn (Blackboard products) are in development and will be deployed in the near future.

Pedagogical Repository

This is a collection of effective online instructional practices, to include a description, examples, scholarly references, etc. Would faculty be interested in working with CDL to contribute? The vision is to become like the Purdue OWL for online learning.