

The University of Georgia
2013 Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium

Brasstown Valley Resort

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Panel I. Instructional Technologies

Office of Online Learning

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Office of Online Learning (OOL):

Established in August 2013 in response to internal recommendations from

- Distance Education Task Force (May 2010)
- DE Leadership Committee (December 2011)
- Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium (Spring 2012)

Staffing includes:

Director (1)

Instructional Designers (4)

Administrative Specialist (1)

Marketing Manager (1 to be hired by June 2013)

Graduate Assistants (2)

Temporary/Student Video Production Assistants (2 part-time)

Goals:

- Increase the number of online graduate and professional programs
- Increase the number of select online undergraduate courses/programs
- Revitalize reflection on teaching and learning through successful integration of technology into instruction

Roles and Responsibilities: Below are examples of the types of support interactions and services addressed by members of the OOL team.

Faculty Support and Advocacy

- Currently building 36 undergraduate courses to be delivered online this summer (2013)
- Establishing tools, strategies and training modules (both online and in person) to address course design elements of quality, accessibility, best practices, engagement, and appropriate technology solutions for instructional needs.
- Identifying new graduate programs and certificates that will be provided start up funds from the University. These programs will have a clear business plan for the development, growth and sustainability of the programs and will conduct a market research analysis to confirm viability of the program as an online offering.

Student Support and Advocacy

- Identifying of improvement for current practice so to ensure comparable experiences for online students
- Identifying and defining how proctoring will be managed for online courses
- Communicating with advisors regarding best practices associated with online learning
- Responding to inquiries placed to the office
- Promoting online student success

Partnerships

Given the small staffing in the office and inherent need to leverage expertise where it resides, partnerships are important to the success of online learning. The Office of Online Learning is partnering with various departments and committees including Academic Advisors, Academic Enhancement, University Testing, Curriculum Systems, Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Ed Tech and others.

State and Federal Compliance

It is important that the University establish processes and procedures that ensure we are in compliance with legislation. Two key areas that are being addressed by the Office of Online Learning are:

- State Authorization (obtaining approval from states to serve citizens in the state via online learning)
- Accessibility or Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (ensuring that online course materials are created in ways that allow them to be accessed by students with disabilities)

Research

In order to be responsive to instructional methodologies requested by faculty developing online courses, members of the Office of Online Learning research various tools that are compatible with our learning management system and easy to use and support. In addition, OOL partners with CTL to provide support, tool training and to seek funding to procure and support new technology tools.

Promotion and Marketing

Since UGA is not widely viewed as an online course/program provider, as we build new offerings, it is important to get the word out so that individuals with interest can be aware of what we are offering.

The Office has a website: <http://ugaonline.uga.edu>. The site provides information for prospective students as well as for faculty and departments that wish to avail themselves of the services provided through OOL.