

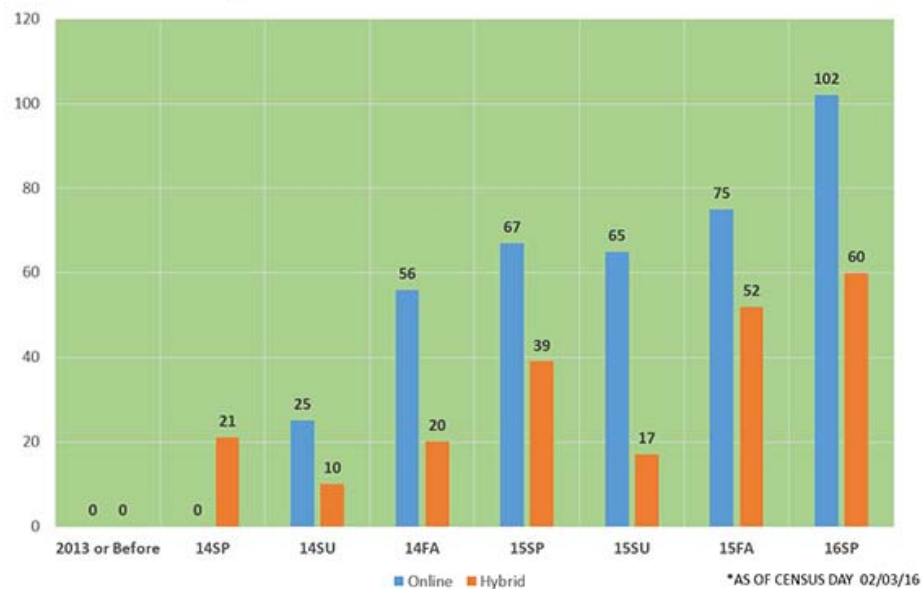


Year 1, Number 22

Distance Learning at UNT Dallas More Spring 2016 Statistics

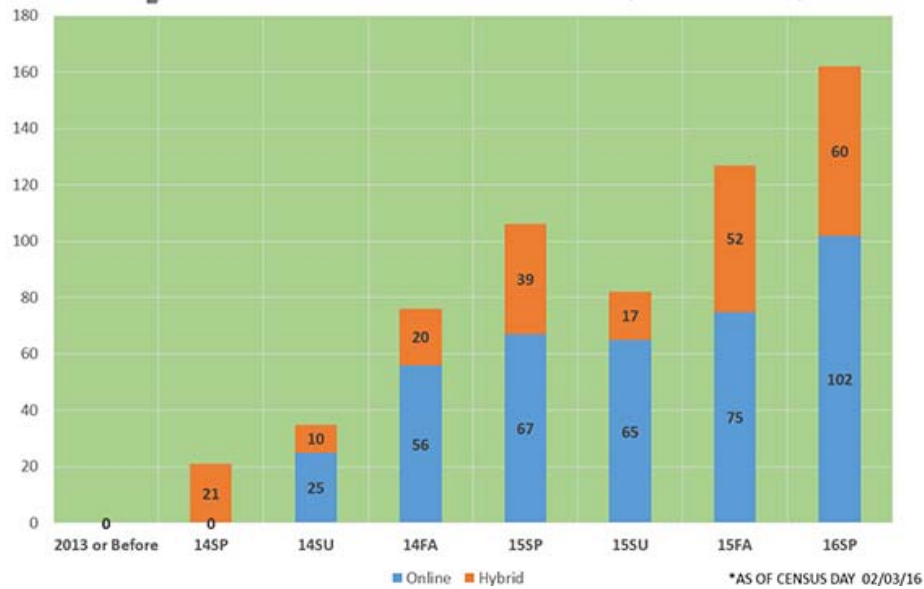
Online learning has been expanding rapidly in availability and popularity at UNTD in the past couple of years, with the most recent data demonstrating no signs of slowing. Courses available using distance learning technologies and strategies provide educational opportunities for students who need flexible times for completing a degree or continuing their education. As we informed in last week's newsletter, year, our Distance Learning offerings include **221 sections of 162 fully or partially online courses** and the following graph shows the number of hybrid courses and online courses by semester:

Distance Learning Hybrid vs. Online



For the 16SP semester we are offering **102 online courses** and **60 hybrid courses**. This represents a **52% increase in online courses** being offered from the spring of last year and a **54% increase in hybrid courses**.

Distance Learning Hybrid vs. Online (Stacked)

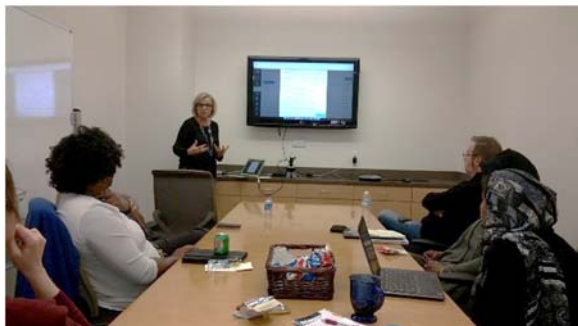


Definitions:

- Online Course - A course where most or all of the content is delivered online.
- Hybrid Course (Blended) - A course that blends online and face-to-face delivery. Substantial proportion of the content is delivered online, typically uses online discussions, and typically has a reduced number of face-to-face meetings.

Canvas by Instructure

Learning management systems (LMS) can help faculty deliver and maintain important course content. Last week we had the visit of Estelita Young, Regional Director for Canvas by Instructure who came to UNT Dallas to give us a brief demo on Canvas LMS.



Staff from DLIT and instructors who are part of the Distance Learning Advisory Council and representing our different schools (Dr. Mark Stanley, Dr. Constance Lacy, Dr. Syeda Jesmin and Dr. Banu Goktan) attended this demo session as an exploratory effort to learn about the Canvas platform, how the design and features of the Canvas learning platform make teaching more enjoyable and learning more meaningful. This presentation and Q&A session addressed migration, third-party integrations, SIS integrations, mobility, ePortfolios, outcomes and more.



Ms. Young started in February, 2011 with Instructure. She's worked for WebCT, Blackboard and Wimba. Before entering corporate life, Ms. Young was a tenured college professor and chair of the Spanish department at Collin County Community College. She has also taught in the Dallas County Community College District and at Texas Woman's University and has been teaching online.



16 THINGS TEACHERS SHOULD TRY IN 2016

1. GOOGLE CARDBOARD
2. SKETCHNOTING
3. BLOGGING
4. PODCASTING

16 Things To Try in 2016

What are your goals for 2016? There are so many new and exciting things to try both in and out of the classroom. Here is the first set of 4 ideas on EdTech to try this 2016 and help inspire you to try something new this year.

1. *Google Cardboard*

This year you will see both virtual and augmented reality take-off in 2016! [Google Cardboard](#) makes virtual reality accessible to the masses and with the advent of [Google Expeditions](#), Google has made virtual reality not only cheap and convenient but also focused on using it to engage students in the classroom.

2. *Sketchnoting (or Visual Note-Taking)*

Research has shown that drawing your notes, even doodling can help anyone learn and remember information better. Two mobile apps to try with sketch noting: [Adobe Illustrator Draw](#) and [Paper by FiftyThree](#).

3. *Blogging*

The power of sharing your voice cannot be overstated! I started blogging just under two years ago and it transformed my career and my learning. Blogging with your students will give new meaning to their writing and their work! The power of sharing your voice, your learning and your passions online cannot be overrated. Start simple! The bottom line is just to get writing and posting on a regular basis. Don't get caught up in trying to choose the perfect platform. Perfect is the enemy of done! Already blogging? Maybe you need to re-commit to blogging regularly or offer to mentor someone else who has been putting it off for far too long, and by all means get your students blogging!

4. *Podcasting*

If blogging isn't for you, maybe you should share your voice through a podcast. Podcasting has continued to grow like wildfire, and educators across the globe are sharing through this medium every day. If you don't want to podcast yourself, be sure you take advantage of the all of the phenomenal podcasts that are available online across many different platforms like [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Overcast](#).

...To be continued next week!

Via: www.shakeuplearning.com



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The Teaching Professor & Online Classroom



DLIT provides Free On-Campus Access (through a group subscription) to **Magna Commons, 20 Minute Mentor Commons, Distance Education Report, Online Classroom, and The Teaching Professor.** These electronic newsletters provide the information faculty, deans, chairs, and other academic decision-makers use for effective leadership within their colleges or departments as they fulfill their institution's mission of teaching and scholarship.

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[Teaching Professor Newsletter - January 2016](#)

[Teaching Professor Articles - January 2016](#)

[Articles You Might Have Missed - January 2016](#)



Promoting a Culture of Accessibility for Online Students

Presenters: Kathleen Bastedo, John Raible and Nancy Swenson, *Instructional Designers, University of Central Florida*

Institutions are at varying stages of implementing accessibility processes from individuals managing reactive accommodations to robust campus-wide initiatives. This facilitated discussion will address what questions to ask at your institution regarding online course accessibility such as: Who is responsible for ensuring the accessibility of online course materials?

Instructional designers from the University of Central Florida will share their strategies, challenges, and lessons learned from developing a campus-wide online course accessibility support model and address specific accessibility areas such as: captioning, course content, and testing.

Monday, February 15 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)



Blackboard Open Lab

Whether you're just starting work on your summer or fall course or putting on those finishing touches in your spring courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-when-ever-you-can event.

Tuesday, February 16, between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM in DAL1, Rm 336

[Register here.](#)



Newbies [eFLC]

Is this your first year teaching a Distance Learning course at UNT Dallas? Orientation was great but this is “the rest of the story”- addressing questions and concerns. Join Arturo, Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology, to discuss and learn more about teaching an eLearning course.

Tuesday, February 16 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)



Experiential Learning: Overcoming Barriers & Elevating the Online Learning Experience

Creating an online course in which undergraduate students learn and discuss real world issues while becoming active citizens must contain a fine balance of passion and professionalism. A combination of formative and summative assessments can create a stimulating learning environment. However, in some professions, this is not enough to equip them for the work force and

remain competitive in their industry. During this workshop, we will discuss how to implement summative assessments for experiential learning in the online environment and candidly discuss some of the challenges students and instructors face with the learning process. Online teaching strategies will focus on motivating students, enhancing learning, and providing best practices to facilitate change in students' perceptions of experiential learning.

Presented by Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator

Wednesday, February 17 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

Accelerating Experience-Based Learning for High-Performance

Presenter: Ray Jimenez, Ph.D., Architect of TrainingMagNetwork.com, Chief Learning Officer of Vignettes Learning Experts, scientists and learning specialists agree that experience is one of the better ways to help learners learn. The more experience the learner and worker has, the more they perform on the job. In typical learning environments, “experience learning” is not encouraged. Consequently, learners try hard to learn the theory and yet forget them as soon as they finish the courses. To prevent this from happening, effective learning incorporates experience-learning before, during and after the learning process – and is continuously encouraged on the job.

Topics covered:

- What scientific studies demonstrate that experience-learning is far more effective than other methods?
- What are the key elements of experience-learning – its design, methods, platform and culture?
- How do you use problem-solving, analytical studies, trouble-shooting, action-research, peer-to-peer learning to strengthen experience-learning?

Thursday, February 18, 2016 @ 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)

[Why Are We So Slow to Change the Way We Teach?](#)

By: Maryellen Weimer, PhD

Source: Faculty Focus

Many aspects of teaching—lecture, course design, testing, assignments, and grading—have also changed little.

Granted, some faculty do change, a lot and regularly, but not the majority. The question is, “why?” Here are some possibilities the author has been considering.

[Read more...](#)



[Move Your Labs Online](#)

By Dian Schaffhauser

Source: Campus Technology

As more classes go online, schools need a workable approach for giving students access to high-demand software. Virtual desktops provide the answer.

Even as online courses proliferate on campus, those programs face a challenge: How do you give students access to high-octane software and big data sets they need for their classes when they can't simply walk into a computer lab on campus and log in?

[Read more...](#)



[Education Technology: Is It All Hype With No Return?](#)

By Pete Wheelan

Source: EdSurge News

While some may regard the recent buzz around education technology as hype, it's important to realize it is based on an element of hopefulness.

The hope is that technology can offer personalized and adaptive delivery of

curricula, improve outcomes, and better prepare students for tech-driven workplaces. At a time of significant national concern with the price of higher education, there is also hope that innovative technology could reduce these costs.

[Read more...](#)





Immersive Learning:

Google Expeditions Takes Students on VR Tours of Great Barrier Reef, Buckingham Palace

By David Nagel

Source: THE Journal

Google has added two new virtual reality tours to its Google Expeditions Pioneer Program, a VR platform designed specifically for classroom use and available free for schools.

Read more...

Signups for both the app and the in-person tours are open to educators now on [Google's Expeditions site](https://www.google.com/edu/expeditions/):
<https://www.google.com/edu/expeditions/>

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More



- FEB 22** **Making Your Courses Accessible for Those With Disabilities**
(12:00 PM)
Founders Hall, Rm 127
- FEB 23** **DLAC Meeting**
(10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)
Founders Hall, Rm 127
- FEB 23** **BITS #2 - The Ins and Outs of Writing Effective Discussion Questions**
(2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
DAL1, Rm 336
- FEB 24** **Test Creation Made Simple**
(10:00 AM—11:30 AM)
DAL1, Rm 336

- FEB 25** **Flip Instruction and Create a Student-Centered Classroom**
(3:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
Founders Hall, Rm 127
- MAR 1** **Mid-Term Grading Cafe**
(2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
DAL1, Rm 336
- MAR 2** **Teaching Online with Rubrics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**
(10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)
DAL1, Rm 336
- MAR 3** **Using Web-based Technology for Interactive, Formative Feedback in Online Learning**
(10:00 AM - 10:45 AM)
Founders Hall, Rm 127

Register to any of our **February** events [here](#).



Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions! Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

Web: <http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit>

Phone: 972-338-5580

Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu



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Arturo Cole, M.S.

*Director - Office of Distance Learning
and Instructional Technology*

University of North Texas at Dallas
Office of Distance Learning
7400 University Hills Blvd, Ste. 123
Dallas, Texas 75241
972.338.1606 | untdallas.edu/dlit



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