



Volume 2, Number 15 | November 18, 2016

## Ensuring Student Success in Online Courses (Part 3 of 4)

### Chunk the content and scaffold instruction

Sometimes the workload and reading requirements in online courses may seem daunting to students, especially if they don't have very good time management and prioritization skills. Chunking and organizing the content meaningfully into modules/units not only makes it easy for students to understand and remember the concepts but also makes it more manageable for them. By doing this, the instructor can present complex concepts/ideas as "bite-size information" so students can understand, apply, and retain the information. By incorporating assessments and feedback with every learning module, instructors have the opportunity to scaffold students' learning.

- Divide big assignments or projects into smaller milestones to help students manage the workload, and provide feedback at each step.
- Provide review sessions or instructional videos where you notice gaps in learning to clarify concepts.

### Download Your Free Report

#### A Holistic Approach to Supporting Students

The office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies invites you to download a free copy of this report from Magna Publications. This report was created to give higher educational professionals ideas on how to support their institution's students from every angle.

A Holistic Approach to Supporting Students was written for faculty, online educators, academic administrators, recruitment staff, and distance education administrators.

Over the course of 32 pages, this report includes the following articles.

#### Supporting Students in the Classroom

- Designing Homework That Enhances Learning
- Testing That Promotes Learning



Supporting Online Students

- Improving Student Motivation with Check-ins
- Designing Effective Team Projects in Online Courses

Supporting Students as an Academic Leader

- A Comprehensive Approach to Student Success
- Implementing High-Impact Learning

Supporting Students in Distance Education Programs

- How Teaching Load, Employment Status Effect Student Performance
- Supporting Student Retention in Online Courses

Supporting Students through Recruitment Strategies

- Graduate Recruitment: One Possible Solution to Enrollment Dilemma?
- Counselor's Notes: On-the-Spot Admissions

**Our hope is that this report gives you ideas to fulfill the most critical part of what you do—  
supporting our student success.**

[Download your free copy today!](#)



From all of us at the office of **Distance Learning and Instructional Technology**,  
we wish you and yours a Thanksgiving filled with peace, love and great joy.  
Have a wonderful time... **Happy Thanksgiving!**





### Monday Morning Mentor: Cynthia

It's a great way for you to start the week!

Join Cynthia (for no more than 20-30 minutes max) to discuss and answer questions regarding current issues important to online teaching and learning. This is a great approach to get faculty training in a compact format!

Monday, November 28, 8:30 AM - 9 AM, virtual (online)

### The 4-Door Approach to Effective and Engaging E-Learning Design

[Track 2: E-Learning Design]

Presenter: Dr. Sivasailam Thiagarajan, The Thiagi Group

This rapid design approach can be applied to creating e-learning on any topic using any platform. The outcome of this approach is an online training module that is divided into four areas: The library contains the content such as reference materials and job aids, the playground contains games with closed questions, the café contains a chat area with open-ended questions, and the assessment center contains a performance test. The participants work through any of these areas in any sequence, any number of time. Based on self-determination theory of intrinsic motivation, this approach treats adult learners with respect and provides them with meaningful choices.

Monday, November 28, 2016 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



### The Power of eBooks in a Personalized Learning Environment

[Track 3: Technology in the Classroom]

Presenter: Michelle Easley, Ed.S., Digital Content Program Specialist

Harness the power of eBooks to support personalized learning environments.

Maximize the use of your students' mobile devices to access eBooks and produce a personalized approach to reading. This webinar will present instructional activities that highlight the features of eBooks while providing tips for integrating technology into reader response.

Topics:

- Briefly review the 7 principles of personalized learning
- Explore the connection between the personalized learning principles and personalized reading options afforded by eBooks
- Examine current research on effective reading instruction utilizing eBooks
- Develop strategies to support the individual reader
- Review suggested instructional activities using eBook features and tools
- Review suggestions for integrating technology into reader response and explore best practices

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 @ 10 AM - 11 AM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.

## Maintaining Quality and Rigor in Short Term Online Courses

### [A DLIT Instructional Design for eLearning Workshop]

Different short-term course formats have become common in higher education, but there are many academicians who view them as less rigorous where shortcuts have been made to accommodate students' schedules and to increase student enrollment. However, there are additional core factors that should be addressed that may impact the quality of these intensive courses differently than regular scheduled courses. Join us for this workshop where we will discuss these factors and different strategies distance learning instructors can incorporate into the structure of their online or hybrid course.

Presenter: Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator

Tuesday, November 29, 2 PM—3 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



## The Future of Closed Captioning in Higher Education

### [Track 4.: Videos, Captions, and Accessibility]

Presenters: Sean Zdenek, Author, *Reading Sounds* | Associate Professor, Texas Tech University, and Lily Bond (Moderator), Director of Marketing | 3Play Media

With recent lawsuits, evolving legal requirements, and continuous advancements in technology, the question of closed captioning in higher education is one that is on a lot of people's minds. What does the future of captioning hold?

In this webinar, Sean Zdenek, author of the book *Reading Sounds: Closed Captioned Media and Popular Culture* and an Associate Professor at Texas Tech University, will answer exactly that question. Given the legal landscape, he will first focus on the hurdles and challenges of developing an infrastructure for closed captioning at the university level. Sean will then take a closer look at where closed captioning is going, focusing on the likely future requirements for, advancements in, and features of captioning.

This presentation will cover:

- Developing an infrastructure for captioning at the university level
- Training faculty & addressing faculty resistance
- Faculty response to new captioning mandates
- Future requirements for captioning
- Current & future advancements in closed captioning technology
- Advanced features that make captioning beneficial to all users

Wednesday, November 30 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



## Innovation in Teaching

### [Track 6: Innovation in Teaching and Learning]

Presenters: Scott Jaschik, Editor, *Inside Higher Ed*, editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Doug Lederman, Editor, *Inside Higher Ed*

Teaching is crucial to the mission of every college and university – even if the degree programs, students, faculty members and institutional missions vary widely. Whether trying to teach first-year composition or advanced science,

faculty members are pushing themselves and their students. Below are some of the topics to be discussed on the webinar:

- Why some universities are giving STEM education more attention.
- How certain traits of undergraduate education are linked to success in life.
- Why some universities are getting rid of 8 a.m. classes.
- The debate between quality vs. quantity of writing assignments.

Thursday, December 1, 2016 @ 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



## Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)



### [Beyond Multiple Choice: Seven Strategies for Assessing eLearning Effectiveness](#)

by Pamela Hogle

Source: Learning Solutions

Time to read: **3 min**

Is your eLearning successful? A learner's ability to correctly answer multiple-choice or true-false questions doesn't mean that she can apply that knowledge to doing her job. Use these strategies to measure learning more deeply.

Simulations of common workplace scenarios, such as responding to irate customers or aiding frantic callers to an assistance hotline, offer opportunities for learners to practice soft skills like problem solving and communication. With practice, employees' confidence that they can field such calls from actual customers increases.

[Read more...](#)



### [College Students: 'Please Personalize My Learning'](#)

By Dian Schaffhauser

Source: Campus Technology

Time to read: **2 min**

Digital technology is here to stay, and students want us to use it! In a recent study college students advocated for use of technology in the classroom as it increased their grades, provided access to materials, and improved efficiency. Students also wanted personalized learning and indicated that digital learning tech should be able to adapt to each individual's way of

learning.

[Read more...](#)



### [Mapping Higher Ed's Future: Introducing the Innovation Initiative](#)

By Dave King

Source: The EvoLLLution

Time to read: **3 min**

As higher education's new era draws closer, it's critical for institutional leaders to understand what the students of tomorrow will actually want from their postsecondary experiences, and who those students will be.

[Read more...](#)



Mark Your  
Calendars!

- DEC 5 **Monday Morning Mentor: Arturo**  
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)
- DEC 6 **Finals Grading Cafe**  
(2 PM - 4 PM) FH, Rm 127



### 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](mailto:UNTDDistance@unt.edu)



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