

GPAD

Graduate Professional and Academic Development

The virtual instructor: Strategies for teaching success

Shelley Blundell, Communication and Information
Naser Madi, Computer Science

Welcome virtual instructors!

Today's presentation will cover:

- Brief overview of online learning at Kent State.
- Top 5 strategies of successful instructors in an online learning environment.
- Technology tools that will help you incorporate these strategies into courses and daily life.
- Useful technology tools for general use.

Brief overview of online learning

- Various types (100% online asynchronous, 100% online with some synchronous components, hybrid courses).
- Platform – Blackboard Learn [BBLearn].
- Kent State HelpDesk student/instructor support (available 24/7).
- Course requirements (assignments, chats, discussions, virtual office hours, etc.).

Strategy 1: Planning your course schedule

- Create a structured, daily/weekly schedule.
- Consistency counts.
- Emphasize course requirements and how often they must be completed (e.g. twice-weekly discussion posts, etc.).
- *Plan your work, and work your plan!*

Strategy 1: Technology tools

- Planboard (www.planboardapp.com) - <http://youtu.be/PRXEG-rAFic>
- Flashnotes (<http://www.flashnotes.com>)
- TED Ed (ed.ted.com) = (ed.ted.com/tour)

Strategy 2: Time management

- Balance is key.
- Asynchronous courses require extra rigor – Respond in a timely fashion to student questions (e.g. 24-hour turnaround).
- Emphasize virtual office hours for lengthy student questions/concerns.
- Do not procrastinate with grading.

Strategy 2: Technology tools

- RescueTime - <https://www.rescuetime.com/>
- Google Calendar - <https://www.google.com/calendar/>
- Wunderlist - <https://www.wunderlist.com/>

Strategy 3: Staying on task

- Build an expectation of structure early in the course, and then emphasize maintenance of structure, both for students and yourself.
- Communicate concerns/clarifications with students ASAP (especially in terms of online ‘attendance’ through course reports).
- Consider posting announcements/screen captures to clarify ‘muddy point’ questions.

Strategy 3: Technology tools

- Faststone - www.faststone.org/download.htm
- Jing - <http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html>
- Google Drive - <http://drive.google.com>

Strategy 4:

Communication/interaction

- Occurs in three ways in an online course: You/students, you/content, you/design.
- Communicate/interact with students throughout course to increase sense of engagement/social presence for students.
- Practice good (n)etiquette, and encourage your students to do the same.
- Again – timely response to student questions.

Strategy 4: Technology tools

- Google Drive - <http://drive.google.com>
- Dropbox - www.dropbox.com
- Doodle – www.doodle.com
- Piazza - www.piazza.com

Strategy 5: Support and assessment

- Concerns are best resolved if addressed early
 - go-to technology assistants (Helpdesk, etc).
- Many F2F considerations apply online as well
 - consider university accessibility of content.
- Who is your mentor/supervisor?
- Keep informed of your course statistics (e.g. who is participating, when, how often, etc.).
- Create multiple assessment points.

Strategy 5: Technology tools

- BBLearn – learn.kent.edu
- KSU HelpDesk – support.kent.edu
- Classmarker - www.classmarker.com
- Polleverywhere - www.polleverywhere.com

General technology tools [1]

Editing and Bibliography

- Texmaker The universal LaTeX editor = www.xm1math.net/texmaker/

Presentation and Design

- Gimp (www.gimp.org)
- Prezi (www.prezi.com)

General technology tools [2]

Online Courses

- OpenCourseWare - <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>
- Academic Earth - <http://academicearth.org/>
- Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Books and notes

- Chegg (www.chegg.com)

File Encryption tools

- The GNU Privacy Guard (www.gnupg.org)
- 7-Zip (www.7-zip.org/)

Final thoughts

- Teaching Scenario - Social Media
 - What do you think?
 - Any other thoughts/comments?

Questions?

- Shelley Blundell – sblundel@kent.edu
- Naser Madi – nmadi@kent.edu

References

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