

“Online Learning: All You Need to Know to Facilitate and Administer Online Courses”

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Online education is a rapidly growing, highly fragmented field. It attracts professionals from very diverse academic backgrounds but these professionals have very little shared knowledge, and this, based on the author's experience, causes major problems when planning and implementing online education.

A second challenge is that most instructors and professors teaching online have very little or no pedagogical background. Their only frame of reference is their own education, which usually consisted of a "sage on the stage" instead of a "guide on the side" approach required in online education. Peer learning, a key component of a successful online course, has not been used extensively in traditional, face-to-face courses.

A third consideration is that so far, few researchers have asked the students what they prefer in regard to online education. Since online students tend to be older and more mature, they are also more likely to use their tuition dollars to shop around for the best learning environment. This book includes an exclusive, in-depth study of students' perspective on their online learning experience in general and their view of effective and ineffective instruction in particular.

This book is academically grounded, but written in an accessible language that does not require the reader to have an extensive academic background. Therefore, it can help various stakeholders get "the big picture" and thereby be able to make wise decisions about their courses and programs, and give the students the best learning experience possible. The book provides a shared body of knowledge regarding online programs.

Contents: Introduction. ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS. Online Learning: The Next Big Killer--or Killed--Application? Diffusion of Innovations. The Initiation Stage. The Implementation Stage. The Continuation Stage. The Outcome Stage. Conclusion. PEDAGOGICAL THEORIES AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN. What Can We Learn from Related Fields? Pedagogical Aspects of Online Learning. Design and Production of Online Content. Professional Modes of Production. Self-Publication. Various Types of Online Material. Conclusion. COMMUNITY, FACILITATION AND ASSESSMENT IN ONLINE LEARNING. Emerging Needs. Iteration. Facilitation and Mentoring. Assessment. Conclusion. THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE. The Students as Customers. What Do We Know About Online Students' Perceptions? Methodology. Students' Perceptions of Various Aspects of Online Courses. Student Essays. Online Learning. Who Needs Online Learning? Online Learning: Good, Bad and Ugly. My Online MBA. Initially Skeptical. Combining Education and Work. My Online Learning Experience. Human Aspects of Online Learning. My Online Learning Background. Online University: Alternative or New Direction in Education. My Online Experience. HOW TO TEACH ONLINE. Introduction. How to Get Started in Teaching Online. Content. Setting Up the Online Classroom. Facilitation. Feedback and Grading. Conclusion. Epilogue. Reference. Index.