@UpOnline

UPSTATE ONLINE

Welcome baaack...

Greetings to a new academic year. Lots of changes and momentum for online education at Upstate are underway. New online programs and courses extend Upstate's reach to students who otherwise would not be able to complete a degree through a traditional course or program schedule. With the flexibility in online education comes the introduction of new teaching methods and course design. The Office of Distance Education (ODE) supports faculty directly with course development grants and training under the UpOnline Course Consultation program.

During this academic year, you will see pilot programs for online course quality peer review, online student orientation, and the online readiness and preparation course. These latter initiatives will help prepare your current and prospective new students in becoming better learners in the online environment.

The ODE will send out notices regarding each of these, and hold meetings with academic units across campus.

Course Development Opportunities

The **UpOCC** program site is your one-stop shop for all course development grant opportunities, faculty training and instructional design support for online education.

Visit the [UpOnline Course Consultation (UpOCC) program page](#) for all information about available courses, training, policies and opportunities for enhancing the online course and program quality at Upstate.

www.bit.ly/USCUpOCC

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UPSTATE OL

Concierge Service support for faculty and course development

Course Development Opportunities *(cont'd)*

Grant awards program:
Level 1 - New Online Course Building
Level 2 - Existing Online Course Revision
Online Course Peer Review

Online Teaching Certification

Faculty teaching online courses at Upstate are required to be certified, or to have a waiver from the Director of Distance Education. Faculty who have not received any initial or further training in online teaching since summer 2013 need to contact the Director and determine their status. Refresher courses are being developed for faculty with online teaching experience and a desire to learn about new course methods and current best practices.

Online Course Quality Review

USC Upstate has partnered with the Online Learning Consortium (OLC, formerly Sloan-C) for training and institutional endorsement. As part of this program, each online academic program will undergo internal self and peer review of online course quality, using the Open SUNY Course Quality Review ([OSCQR](#)) rubrics. A cohort of 5 faculty and 2 staff have completed the OLC workshop, with another cohort starting in November. If you would like to participate, contact Dr. McCurry.

Sharing in the Online Community

Creating a sense of community in an online course environment is essential to successful teaching and learning experiences. Faculty engagement with students is one of- if not *the* - critical component of online course quality and training modules in the UpOCC programs reflect that.

We also need to consider building a campus community for online learners. Student associations on campus are organized to support common interests, yet the typical remote online student at Upstate is currently, well... remote.

This academic year, the Office of Distance Education will be exploring better ways of providing a sense of community for our online student population, including such innovations as a digital commons, published connections to featured campus events that are streamed live, and regional or local networking and meetups.

Other initiatives that will see completion and implementation this year are:

- Online program enrollment data dashboard
- Expanded policies and procedures for online course ownership
- New media tools like TechSmith Relay and lightboard display technology

Exciting times for our Upstate Online!

David McCurry, Director

Adult Enrollment

Online education is particularly valued by the non-traditional student population. Upstate has 21.4%* student enrollment in the "above 25 year old" category. A third of those students are over 35 years of age.*
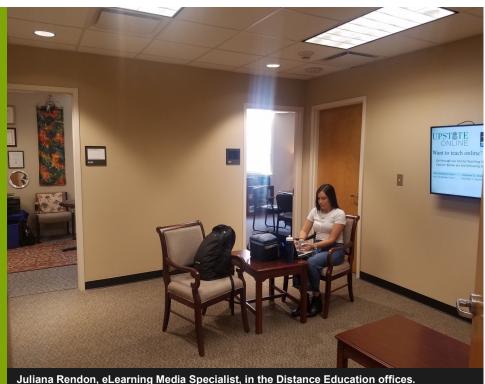
This trend is likely to increase in coming years, and these students will form a higher proportion of our population. Upstate Online is building towards this capacity with faculty and course development using high quality design and training standards that support this adult learning population as well as our traditional age students.

Student Support

The remote, online student is entitled to the same services as our on-campus enrollment. Distance Education has supported the training and certification of Counseling Services staff in tele-health remote counseling.

The ODE is also pursuing online academic mentoring and tutoring support and remote proctored exam options.

Fall 2017 data, Visual Fact Book, USC Upstate, Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Juliana Rendon, eLearning Media Specialist, in the Distance Education offices.

Online Education @ Upstate

Online course growth and enrollment will start to increase as Upstate seeks to draw in a greater number of students seeking the convenience and quality of our online offerings.

Numbers

231 - number of online course sections this fall semester. Up from **195** last year at this time.

18% - of Upstate students are enrolled in a fully online course this fall, an increase of 3 percent from fall 2017.

391 - fully online students in degree programs at Upstate, representing close to $2.5M in gross revenue for the institution.

6 - degree programs that are 100% online at Upstate. Up from **2** in 2015. **5** new online programs are currently in development.

100 - plus faculty who have completed the online teaching certification course since fall, 2016.

Changes

Reflecting our strategic priority of building new programs that reflect our mission and institutional vision, Distance Education is expanding its resources to better serve faculty and departments with course design, online course and program quality reviews, and online media and materials production.

Staff

Welcome to **Mike Lampe**, Instructional Design Specialist. Known to many across campus through his productive work in Learning Technologies, Mike will be mainly responsible for the Certification course, assisting in the review and faculty support for online course development, and supervising our new student worker, **Juliana Rendon,** who will be assigned as our **eLearning Media Specialist** to assist faculty with media support in online courses.

Juliana's expertise is in integrating social media into online courses, and assisting faculty with video, audio and media choices for effective communication and content. Mike will continue to support the Active Learning initiative and serve as the technology integration liaison for a number of departments on campus. By the way, have a look at the Department of Learning Technologies newsletter for a full description of what an Instructional Designer does (and can do) for improving your courses.

Location

The office has changed location too. Drop by to visit us in Admin 222 between the lobby and Chancellor's office to see the new outer office/meeting area. We have designed a flexible workspace for small meetings, program planning, demonstration and sharing of ideas.

Visit the UpOnline Course Consultation (UpOCC) program page for all information about available courses, training, policies and opportunities for enhancing the online course and program quality. The UpOCC program site is your one-stop shop for all course development grant opportunities, faculty training and instructional design support for online education.

Let's do a quick reflection activity. Close your eyes and picture yourself in your living room. You turn the television on, hear sound, but do not see the picture. Does it not feel like something is missing to fully grasp what is happening? Now open your eyes. This is how it feels for you to have a bunch of content to read, but not any content to watch or interact with. The days where you only put a syllabus and a pdf file online to call it a distance education course are long past. We have the internet of things and high-speed internet to watch course videos. Students will feel like there is something missing in your course if you do not use technology tools that are standard in the digital web experience.

For more ways to include media into your courses, contact distance education to schedule a media consultation with Juliana or an instructional design consultation with David or Michael.

Coming Right Up

As Upstate grows its online presence, the Office of Distance Education will support more initiatives for moving degree programs online through course development grants, direct consulting to departments, and through liaison with Palmetto College, the USC system-wide online degree completion effort. Catch us on Twitter **@upstateonline** and on our YouTube channel, **USC Upstate Online**.

Remember, you can always contact us with questions about online course development, instructional design, pedagogy, and online teaching and learning.

Distance Education Advisory Group

The **DEAG** was established in 2017 to provide input into the quality and management of online courses and programs at Upstate. It meets twice a year, with interim work done in subgroups. The **DEAG** is comprised of faculty, staff, students, and community participants and is chaired by the Director of DE. Check out the **DEAG** page at the UpOCC website.

Contact Us

Call or message any time with questions or to schedule a consult. Drop by to visit us at

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Watch in October for announcements of the Upstate Online Podcast series "*Up*.Cast: A USC Upstate podcast for online education" hosted by David McCurry and Michael Lampe.

The podcast will explore issues and situations in online teaching and learning, using a randomly selected fortune cookie statement as the episode theme.

Episode 1: "Look ahead for a fresh start"

Look ahead for a fresh start.