

Blended Learning: An Introduction

There is a growing trend in education at all levels toward blended learning models. This approach requires teachers to rethink their roles in the classroom. This course will introduce you to the various blended learning models used throughout the country.

In this course, you will explore the implications on instruction of a blended learning model. In one version of blended learning, the “flipped classroom” teachers must learn to weave online and face-to-face experiences so that maximum learning occurs. This course will guide you through online community building exercises that must happen for students to have successful online experiences.

You will also see how the flipped classroom model can be achieved in many ways and is not video-dependent. In addition, you will explore the importance of asking good questions that elicit critical thinking from students and appropriate assessments for this blended learning model.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

Module 1

- Investigate existing blended learning models.
- Assess your current technology use and teaching assignment to decide which blended learning model works for you.
- Evaluate each blended learning model and reflect on the feasibility of each model in your current teaching assignment.

Module 2

- Design a flipped lesson to effectively move the transfer of information online and drive student-centered learning in the classroom.
- Brainstorm how you can flip different kinds of media (text, image, or video) for your subject area.

Module 3

- Articulate a vision for your students' online communication to create a safe space online.
- Create a list of dos and don'ts for online behavior (to clearly communicate your expectations to students).
- Design an online icebreaker activity for students.

Module 4

- Design curriculum to facilitate online communication and collaboration that drive higher-order thinking
- Evaluate different types of questions and online tasks to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

Module 5

- Investigate technology skills that are important for teachers to cultivate in a blended learning model.
- Analyze your student group (using questions provided) to determine which facilitation style is the best fit for your student population.

Module 6

- Explore formative and summative assessment strategies using technology and adapt assessments for online activities and engagement.
- Evaluate online assessment tools and reflect when and how you might use each.
- Analyze how technology can help you provide feedback more effectively and efficiently.

Course Syllabus

<p>Module 1</p>	<p>Exploring Blended Learning Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Blended Learning in the Traditional Classroom • Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—The Basics of Blended Instruction • Media: Blended Learning Infographic • Knowledge Check • Application: Technology Self-Assessment • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 2</p>	<p>Flipping Your Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: The Flipped Classroom • Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Evidence on Flipped Classrooms • Reading 3: The Teacher’s Guide to Using Videos • Video: Flipped Mastery Classroom • Knowledge Check • Application: Design a Flipped Lesson • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 3</p>	<p>Building an Online Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Cultivating Digital Citizens • Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Character Education for the Digital Age • Video: Super Digital Citizen • Knowledge Check • Application: Design an Online Icebreaker • Post-Module Reflection

<p>Module 4</p>	<p>Designing Discussion Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Spark Curiosity with Online Tasks • Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Anywhere Learning • Reading 3: <i>EL</i>—Orchestrating the Media Collage • Media: Design an Online Discussion Question • Knowledge Check • Application: Design an Online Discussion Question • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 5</p>	<p>Defining Your Teaching Role in a Blended Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Your Teaching Role in a Blended Learning Model • Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Technology Skills Every Teacher Needs • Reading 3: Five Skills for Blended Learning • Knowledge Check • Application: Define Your Facilitation Role • Post-Module Reflection
<p>Module 6</p>	<p>Exploring Assessment Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Welcome • Reading 1: Assessing Student Work in a Blended Learning Model • Reading 2: <i>EU</i>—Forming Assessment through Technology • Knowledge Check • Application: Design an Online Assessment or Rubric • Post-Module Reflection

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