

## **SUBJECT:** Faculty certification to teach online

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### **Tactics:**

**Quality 1.2.2:** Encourage faculty participation in professional development before teaching online. Consider certifying faculty to teach online.

### **Background:**

In response to a recommendation of the Task Force on Postsecondary Education in Florida, the Innovation and Online Committee established as one of its priorities faculty development for faculty who teach online education, directing that Board staff, with the invited assistance of staff from the Florida College System office, use a competitive procurement process to select a lead institution to provide institutions with a train-the-trainer professional development program. UCF was selected as the lead institution. Partnering with UCF, FLVC has provided first-year start-up with non-recurring funding to develop the Teaching Online Preparation Toolkit (TOPkit), with a commitment from CAVP to fund the next four years with recurring funds. TOPkit launched on February 2017. An online faculty development course is included in the toolkit.

### **Recommendations:**

TOPkit 's online faculty development sample course (<https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1246849>) is integrated into the online toolkit and will be modified to meet the needs identified in Quality Tactic 1.2.2 (i.e. TOPkit Sample Course Lite--a baseline, 5 week self-paced version). A preliminary review of the sample course indicated that the UCF/FLVC (TOPkit) certification course is built on a solid foundation of theory and covers all necessary topics for preparing faculty to teach online. The Professional Development Workgroup recommends this course as the "certification" course associated with the implementation of Quality Tactic 1.2.2.

The Professional Development Workgroup will re-evaluate the faculty certification course after the first TOPkit workshop is held. The first workshop will be held March 22-23, 2017, at the University of Central Florida. At the conclusion of the first workshop, the Professional Development Workgroup will assess the tool and survey SUS participants for best approaches. An update and recommendation will be provided to the Steering Committee by June, 2017.

The recommendation delivered in June will assess potential funding and project management to make this a facilitated course (or not) as well as determine the organization/institution who will have the responsibility for facilitating and maintaining the certification course going forward. For those institutions who have a certification course in place and would like to continue using it, a formal process will be

developed by which institutions may elect to provide evidence that their internal online faculty certification course meets the same rigor and quality of the recommended course.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

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