



"All life journeys have a beginning...the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program is the first step toward mastery in online teaching and learning."

Omar S. Lopez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Texas State University



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Promoting Excellence in Online Teaching Skills

How did you hear about the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program? I first heard about the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program in early spring 2011 from our institution's learning designers in the department of Instructional Technologies Services (ITS). I learned that our institution was a member of OLC and in so doing, committed to providing OLC training to faculty needing to teach or interested in teaching online.

Why the need/interest in the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program?

I came into academia with 25 years of traditional teaching experience in public schools and other educational settings. As our graduate program became fully online in 2011, I realized the need for further professional development in online teaching and learning. The OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program provided this training. Since then, OLC has been my primary source for professional development, having completed three mastery series, the Advanced Teaching Certificate, and several workshops.

How did the program help you in your position/career?

I believe the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program contributed to my tenure and promotion from assistant to associate professor. While publications were important, having a stellar reputation in online teaching and learning contributed to my qualifications to earn tenure and promotion, especially for a department dedicated to the delivery of online courses. I am presently participating in the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning, a program sponsored by OLC and Penn State University. My career aspiration is to provide leadership at my institution in online education, and I believe the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program is foundational to lead others in quality online teaching and learning.

To whom and why you would recommend the program?

I would make the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program a requirement for doctoral students preparing for academia. The likelihood of teaching an online course has grown over the last few years, and I believe will continue to increase due to demands from policy makers, parents, students, and other stakeholders to make higher education more affordable and accessible. I would also urge faculty to complete the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program. At my institution, most faculty teach traditional courses, but the majority also use our Learning Management System (LMS) to organize and manage their classes. The OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program would augment a faculty's knowledge in exploiting the rich functionality of their institution's LMS.

TOP PROGRAM BENEFITS

- A credential in online teaching and learning highly recognized and respected among higher education institutions
- A network of faculty to learn from and for support during and after the program
- Competency in online teaching and learning theory, practices, and strategies—well enough to talk “shop” with your institution's professional learning designers
- A hybrid or fully online course ready-to-launch that you design and build with guidance from the program
- Confidence in design, development, and implementation of online courses using your own LMS tools, features, and functions

About Omar

Omar is a faculty member in the Department of Occupational, Workforce, and Leadership Studies at Texas State University. This department prepares nontraditional students for careers through high quality academic, professional, and technical programs, where Omar has taught hybrid/blended courses since 2009. In 2011, his department decided to go fully online with masters programs. It was then that he decided to transform his instructional practices and strategies for the online format. In so doing, he began this transformation with OLC. He completed the OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program in 2012.



Take your online teaching skills to the next level. Visit www.onlinelearning-c.org/certificate

The OLC Online Teaching Certificate Program is designed to help educators fine-tune existing distance learning courses and degree programs using the OLC Pillars of Quality in Online Education: learning effectiveness, scale, faculty and student satisfaction, and access. Be recognized with an OLC certificate today.