

How Mid-South Community College is Integrating Learning College Principles With Instructional Technology

Our Learners

The adult learners from our community have diverse life styles and backgrounds. We recognize the fact that most are struggling to manage multiple priorities such as job, family and school. Time is precious and so is the need for an education that will make advancement possible.

We strive to put student-learning first and to make it accessible in non-traditional ways. Technology is a tool that we rely on to assist us with serving them.

A New Model

- "The community college needs a new model of education, a model that incorporates the best practices and philosophies of its past with the expanding base of new knowledge about learning and technology. "The Learning College" is a model tailor-made for the community college and one that holds real promise for helping students make passionate connections to learning."

Source: book

O'Banion, Terry. A Learning College for the 21st Century. Arizona: The Oryx Press, 1997 (chapter 3)

Learning College Principles

The learning college:

- creates substantive change in individual learners.
- engages learners as full partners in the learning process, with learners assuming primary responsibility for their own choices.
- creates and offers as many options for learning as possible.
- assists learners to form and participate in collaborative learning activities.
- defines the roles of learning facilitators by the needs of the learners.
- learning facilitators succeed only when improved and expanded learning can be documented for its learners.

Catalyst employed by MSCC

Redesign existing courses to incorporate:

- Interactive Technology
- Active learning projects
- Authentic learning experiences
- Mastery learning feedback via rubrics

- Consistency across sections
- Assessment

Technology and the Learning College

- Computers and electronic technology are flexible *tools* used to:
 - **Enhance** and expand learning
 - **Support** pedagogy
 - **Provide** access to educational experiences anywhere, anyplace, anytime
 - **Provide** individual instruction
- Computers and electronic technology **DO NOT** replace good instructors in any way!

Technology is “ism” free

- Free of racism
 - Free of sexism
 - Free of ageism
- Technology for learning used at MSCC

- Blackboard LMS
- Snap – for computer applications
- I CAN Learn® math lab
- SoftChalk LessonBuilder – for interactive web learning activities
- PowerPoint / Sound Forge / Impatica – to create talking streaming lectures and tutorials for the web
- Smart Boards – enables active learning!
- Laptop check out for faculty
- Internet – Shared learning objects
- Every classroom is technology enabled with computers and LDC projectors

Master Course Package – level 1

- We create master course packages at two levels:
 - Level 1- Blackboard course site contains (minimum)
 - Syllabus
 - Complete semester long detailed assignment calendar
 - Grade book
 - 5 or more active learning projects with authentic learning emphasis and scoring rubric
 - These also serve as built-in course level assessment tools
 - Mastery learning feedback plan
 - Copy of course site given to all instructors teaching sections of same course face-to-face.

Master Course Package – level 2

- Level 2- Blackboard course site contains (Minimum)
 - Everything from level 1
 - Discussion board forums for collaborative learning
 - Talking streaming lecture presentations for every unit of study
 - Interactive learning activities
 - Copy of course site given to all instructors teaching sections of same course face-to-face, hybrid or totally online.

Benefits of Master Course

MSCC is committed to putting student-learning first. Faculty carefully design master course packages to ensure:

- Consistency across all sections
- Pedagogy supportive of active, authentic and mastery learning
- Access to learning material anytime, anyplace, anywhere
- Faculty collaboration – all instructors are strongly encouraged to contribute to the learning materials of a master course

Shared Learning Objects

- <http://learn.midsouthcc.edu/> is the url of MSCC's shared learning objects website.
- All faculty agree to freely share all learning objects
- Course sites link out to these learning objects, which makes updating / maintenance manageable

Faculty Development

Learning College - Technical workshops

MSCC Email

Blackboard Basics

Computer Fundamentals for faculty (test in or test out)

Blackboard & Excel Grade Book

SMART Board

PhotoShop for Faculty

SoftChalk LessonBuilder

Learning College - Pedagogical workshops

Active Learning Virtual Workshop

MSCC Master Course Initiative Virtual Workshop

CATs Virtual Workshop

Assessment Virtual Workshop

All at least have Blackboard components for blended learning

Instructional Technology Faculty Development & Support

- All Faculty are required to be tested for computer literacy. Any instructor who scores below 70% in Word, Excel or PowerPoint is required to participate in Computer Fundamentals for Faculty.

- We use Snap for this training so they can learn anytime, anyplace, anywhere that they have Internet access.
- Weekly support labs are optional but always available.
- Ground support labs are available.
- Certificates of completion are awarded.
- Support course site for online and hybrid instructors

Instructional Technology Faculty Development

Stipends paid for:

- Designing the Learning Experience & Integrating the Master Course with Blackboard
 - The projects for these two consecutive workshops create the level 1 master course packages
- Instructional Design Skills for Online Learning
 - The projects for this course created the level 2 master course packages

Faculty progress to date

- 9 level 1 master course packages
- 33 level 2 master course packages
- All of these have been developed by faculty and are in a constant state or collaborative evaluation and revision by faculty
- By May 1, 2006 100% of full-time faculty will be certified computer literate
- Instructional technology faculty development is ongoing and progressive

Benefits to our Students

- More and more courses becoming available **anytime, anyplace, anywhere** there is an internet connection!
- The opportunity to work ahead and complete courses ahead of schedule.
- Mastery learning opportunities!
- Less stress when it is necessary to miss a face-to-face class session because the material is available online.
- Students have more choice about how they will learn.

Summary

We are proud of how far we have come so far!

Our commitment to enhancing student learning means WE have to continue learning as well.

Thank you!

