

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**Integration of Online Learning in Schools**

**EDIT 762**  
**Quality K-12 Online Learning**  
**NET**

**PROFESSOR(S):**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- A. **Prerequisites:** EDIT 760 and EDIT 761; Corequisite: EDIT 763
- B. **Course description from the university catalog:** Examines and evaluates quality indicators for the design of online learning pointing to the six major areas for consideration: instructor-learner, learner-learner, learner-content, learner-interface, learner-instructional strategies, and social presence.

**NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY:** The course is delivered online using asynchronous and synchronous communication tools. Students participate in discussions and activities both as individuals and in group settings. Students practice concepts learned in the readings and discussions through the use of case studies, role playing, and production of culminating products.

**LEARNER OUTCOMES**

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Define quality as it relates to the design of online learning environments,
2. Understand the challenges and issues related to determining the quality of online learning environments,
3. Understand the six dimensions of interaction,
4. Understand elements of design that instantiate each of the six dimensions of interaction,
5. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to align dimensions of interactions and elements of design to a variety of online learning models, and
6. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to assess quality of K-12 online environments.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

This course is aligned with the International Association for K-12 Online Learning's (iNACOL) (2010) *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*. Standards A.4, A.5, A.6, J.1, and J.2 are covered by the program prerequisite for licensure. The full list and description of standards can be accessed at [http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL\\_TeachingStandardsv2.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL_TeachingStandardsv2.pdf).

Standards aligned with this course are:

Standard A - The online teacher knows the primary concepts and structures of effective online instruction and is able to create learning experiences to enable student success. (A.1)

Standard B - The online teacher understands and is able to use a range of technologies, both existing and emerging, that effectively support student learning and engagement in the online environment. (B.3, B.4, B.5)

Standard C - The online teacher plans, designs, and incorporates strategies to encourage active learning, application, interaction, participation, and collaboration in the online environment. (C.1, C.6, C.8, C.9)

Standard D - The online teacher promotes student success through clear expectations, prompt responses, and regular feedback. (D.1, D.2, D.4, D.6, D.7, D.8, D.9, D.10)

Standard I - The online teacher demonstrates competency in using data from assessments and other data sources to modify content and to guide student learning. . (I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, I.6, I.7, I.8, I.9, I.10, I.11, I.12, I.13)

Standard K - The online teacher arranges media and content to help students and teachers transfer knowledge most effectively in the online environment. (K.1, K.2)

## REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Thurmond, V., & Wambach, K. (2004). Understanding interactions in distance education: A review of the literature. *International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Education*, 1(1). Retrieved from [http://www.itdl.org/journal/jan\\_04/article02.htm](http://www.itdl.org/journal/jan_04/article02.htm)
2. International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). (2011, October). *National standards for quality online courses*. Retrieved from [http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL\\_CourseStandards\\_2011.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL_CourseStandards_2011.pdf)
3. U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement (2008) *Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success*. Washington, DC: WestEd With Edvance Research, Inc. Retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf>
4. Additional readings are available on course website.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS, PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### A. Requirements

1. Participation is mandatory, as discussions, readings, and activities are important parts of the course.
2. Each student is expected to complete all readings and participate in all online discussions.

3. Each student is expected to participate in and complete all projects.
4. Students who must miss online activities are responsible for notifying the instructor (preferably in advance) and for completing any revised assignments, readings, and activities.
5. All assignments must be completed electronically. Assignments are to be submitted on the date due. Late assignments will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor.

## B. Performance-based assessments

Participation (25 points): Students will be evaluated based on their participation in course discussions, group activities, and participation in synchronous meetings. Students are expected to provide articulate responses to weekly discussion board posts and engage with instructor and group members.

OLQAL Guidelines (25 points): Students will collaborate with members in their “chapter” throughout the course to create the Online Learning Quality Assurance League’s Annual Guidelines (K-12 version). Guidelines will consists of: definitions of quality and associated terms relevant to K-12 online learning environments, descriptions of the relationship between quality design elements and online learning model, a rubric for judging the quality of K-12 online learning environments, and a quality review of online learning environments currently available to K-12 learners. A template for the Guidelines is provided on the course Web site.

Evaluation Report (30 points): Students will individually review examples of online courses and evaluate each using their choice of assessment tool. Students will generate an evaluation report using a template provided on the course Web site and submit their report as part of the OLQAL Guidelines.

Electronic Portfolio (20 points): Throughout their program of study, students are required to create and continually revise a professional, online portfolio. This portfolio should not be a collection of what the student has done, but rather a reflection of what they have learned. Templates and assistance will be provided to assist students in the creation and maintenance of this portfolio. All exhibits in the online portfolio will include a short reflection. At the end of this course, a comprehensive, course-wide reflection and supporting samples of work will be added to the portfolio reflecting student learning. This is the designated course performance based assessment and will be scored in Taskstream.

## C. Criteria for evaluation

### Participation Rubric (25 points)

	Exceeds Expectations 5 points x 5	Meets Expectations 3 points x 5	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 point x 5
Participation	Student participates on a consistent basis. They respond to posts in a thoughtful, intelligent, and timely manner that displays in-depth thought and consideration of the readings and discussions. Student engages with group on a regular basis and assists the completion of all group activities in an exceptional manner.	Students posts and participates on a regular basis. They respond to posts in a timely manner that displays consideration of the readings and other comments. Student participates with the group and helps with activities.	Student fails to participate in group discussions on a regular basis. Additionally, their posts do not indicate a consideration of the course material or posts from other students. They fail to assist in completing group activities.

OLQAL Guidelines (25 points)

	Exceeds Expectations 5 points x 5	Meets Expectations 3 points x 5	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 point x 5
OLQAL Guidelines	Guidelines comprehensively and clearly address the issue of quality in K-12 online learning. The Guidelines accurately define quality and associated terms relevant to K-12 online learning environments. Descriptions of the relationship between quality design elements and online learning models are robust. The Guidelines address <i>all</i> requirements specified in the template. The Guidelines are well constructed and carefully edited for spelling and grammar errors.	Guidelines address the issue of quality in K-12 online learning. The Guidelines accurately define quality and associated terms relevant to K-12 online learning environments. Descriptions of the relationship between quality design elements and online learning models are present. The Guidelines address <i>all</i> requirements specified in the template. The Guidelines are well constructed with minimal spelling and grammar errors	Guidelines do not accurately address the issue of quality in K-12 online learning. The Guidelines lack a clear and accurate definition of quality and associated terms relevant to K-12 online learning environments. Descriptions of the relationship between quality design elements and online learning models are minimal or missing. The Guidelines do not address <i>all</i> requirements specified in the template. The Guidelines are poorly constructed with multiple spelling and grammar errors.

Evaluation Report (30 points)

	Exceeds Expectations 5 points x 6	Meets Expectations 3 points x 6	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 point x 6
Evaluation Report	Report clearly and comprehensively presents the evaluation of all online course examples and provides detailed explanations related to the quality of each example. Insightful comments related to dimensions of interactions and design elements are provided in an accurate and easily understood manner. The report addresses <i>all</i> requirements specified in the design template. The report is well constructed and carefully edited for spelling and grammar errors.	Report presents the evaluation of all online course examples and provides explanations related to the quality of each example. Comments related to dimensions of interactions and design elements are provided in an accurate and easily understood manner. The report addresses <i>all</i> requirements specified in the design template. The report is well constructed with minimal spelling and grammar errors.	Report does not present the evaluation of all online course examples and provides few explanations related to the quality of each example. Minimal comments related to dimensions of interactions and design elements are provided. The report does not address <i>all</i> requirements specified in the design template. The report is poorly constructed with multiple spelling and grammar errors.

End of Course Portfolio (20 points)

End of Semester Portfolio	Exceeds Expectations 5 points x 4	Meets Expectations 3 points x 4	Does Not Meet Expectations 1 point x 4
Personal Learning	Includes a comprehensive set of artifacts with robust reflections for all components of the portfolio wiki and reflects mastery of concepts studied during the course.	Includes most artifacts and acceptable reflections for all components of the portfolio wiki, and reflection mastery of concepts studied during the course	Artifacts and reflections are missing and/or incomplete and reflections fail to indicate mastery of concepts studied during the course.
Implications for Practice	Includes thoughtful and comprehensive descriptions of what is learned embedded	Includes descriptions of what is learned embedded throughout the portfolio	Descriptions of what is learned are poorly developed throughout the

	throughout the portfolio wiki. Reflections express clear and robust connections to course concepts and to implications for K-12 online learning practice.	wiki. Reflections express connections to course concepts and to implications for K-12 online learning practice.	portfolio wiki Reflections fail to express connections to course concepts and to implications for K-12 online learning practice.
Reflections/Connections	Reflections express lessons drawn for practice with robust connections to concepts/theories studied, personal teaching and learning goals, and emerging understanding of the art of online teaching and learning.	Reflections express lessons drawn for practice with clear connections to concepts/theories studied, personal teaching and learning goals, and emerging understanding of the art of online teaching and learning.	Reflections fail to express lessons drawn for practice with limited connections to concepts/theories studied, personal teaching and learning goals, and emerging understanding of the art of online teaching and learning.
Portfolio Construction	The portfolio wiki is well constructed and reflects a website design with working links, a clear navigation system, and a common look and feel throughout rather than a collection of pages. The portfolio wiki is carefully edited for spelling and grammar errors.	The portfolio wiki is well constructed and reflects a website design with working links, a clear navigation system, and a common look and feel throughout . The portfolio wiki is edited with minimal spelling and grammar errors.	The portfolio wiki is poorly constructed and represents a collection of pages rather than a website design with working links, a navigation system, and a common look and feel throughout. The portfolio wiki has multiple spelling and grammar errors.

#### D. Grading scale

Requirements	Percentage
Participation	25%
TBN Models (3)	30%
TBN Course Evaluations	25%
Electronic Portfolio	20%

Grade	Point Range
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	86-89
B	80-85
C	70-79
F	69-below

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

#### Student Expectations

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

## Campus Resources

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to the following five values: collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

## PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Learning Activities	Readings & Assignments
Week 1	<p>What is Quality Online Learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the Online Learning Quality Assurance League</li> <li>• Join a local chapter of OLQAL</li> <li>• The Contract</li> <li>• The Glossary</li> <li>• Quality: Issues, Definitions, Dimensions</li> <li>• Begin the Challenge: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Quality and Interactions</p> <p>-Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>:</p> <p>----Episode 1: What is Quality Online Learning?</p> <p>----Episode 2: Dimensions of Interactions</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete and Post Contract</p> <p>-Develop name for local chapter</p> <p>-Complete #1 of OLQAL Guidelines</p> <p>- Participate in chapter online discussions</p>
Week 2	<p>Quality Elements of Online Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Interactive Web-Based Graphic Organizer</li> <li>• Building an Interactive Model of K- 12 Online Quality</li> <li>• Challenge #2: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design</p> <p>-Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>:</p> <p>----Episode 3: Quality Elements of Interactions</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete Web-Based Quality Model</p> <p>-Complete #2 of OLQAL Guidelines</p> <p>-Participate in chapter online discussions</p>

Week 3	<p>Models vs Design Considerations for Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does Model Matter?</li> <li>• Comparing Online Models and Design Considerations</li> <li>• Challenge #3: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design -Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete Quality Model for Online Models -Complete #3 of OLQAL Guidelines</p> <p>-Participate in chapter online discussions</p>
Week 4	<p>Quality Assessment of Online Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating Quality Rubrics and National Standards for Quality K-12 Online Learning</li> <li>• Creating a Rubric to Assess K-12 Online Learning</li> <li>• Challenge #4: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design -Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>: ----Episode 4: Finding the Right Assessment Tool -Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Create and Post Quality Rubric -Complete #4 of OLQAL Guidelines</p> <p>-Participate in all Online discussions</p>
Week 5	<p>Online Course Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining K-12 Online Learning in the Real World</li> <li>• Constructing an Evaluation of Online Courses</li> <li>• Preparing an Evaluation Report</li> <li>• Challenge #5: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Complete Individual Evaluation Reports -Complete #4 of OLQAL Guidelines -Attend League "Meeting"</p> <p>-Complete Portfolio</p>