LEARNING TO TEACH ONLINE

Welcome to Learning to Teach Online

Watch the video
http://bit.ly/9pOeEE

Aims and overview

This episode aims to give you an introduction to the Learning to Teach Online project, define its aims, and explains how you can use these resources to help you get started with online teaching, or improve your existing practice. Please also watch the video component of this episode for more information.

Written by Simon McIntyre

Welcome!

The team at COFA Online welcomes you to *Learning to Teach Online* and invites you to explore the growing number of professional development episodes on the project website and also ask any questions and contribute to our online community to get help with your online teaching ideas or problems, meet like minded colleagues, or to leave us feedback.

Simon McIntyre
LTTO Project Leader

Karin Watson
Project Developer

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We hope that this free resource becomes an invaluable part of your practice as you begin, or continue to explore the world of online learning and teaching. If you're reading this, then you've probably either decided to give online teaching a try for the first time, or to expand and improve upon any online teaching you are already doing. Perhaps you may be sceptical about online teaching, but willing to see what it is all about. Whatever your situation, and whatever discipline you teach, this project has been designed to be flexible enough for you to use in a way that is most suitable for you to help improve your online teaching.

We hope you enjoy *Learning to Teach Online*!
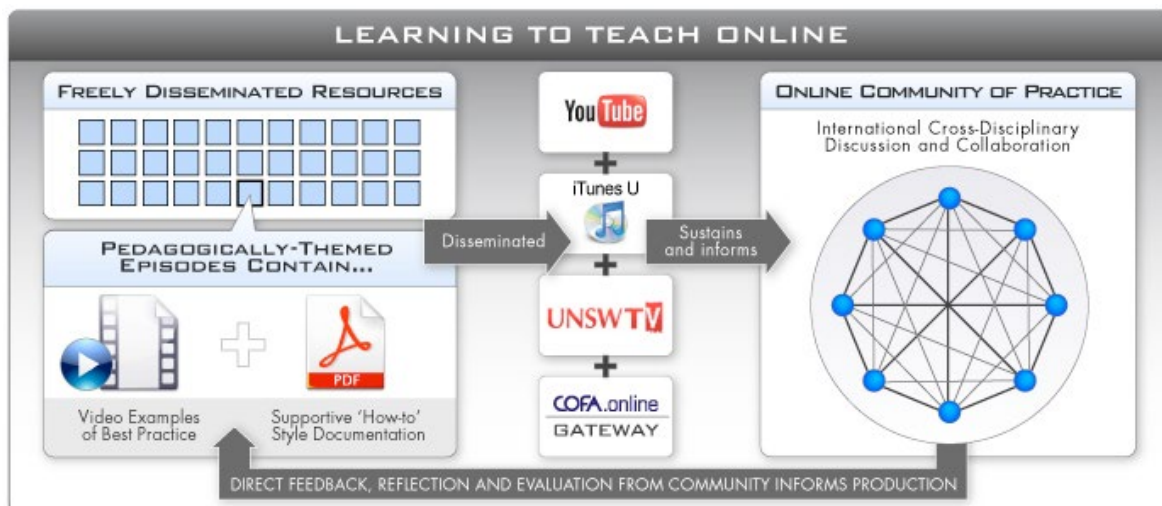
For updates follow COFA Online on:

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About the project

The Learning to Teach Online project is a free professional development resource designed to help teachers from any discipline, whether experienced in online teaching or not, gain a working understanding of successful online teaching pedagogies that they can apply in their own unique teaching situations.

COFA Online is an academic unit at the College of Fine Arts (COFA), The University of New South Wales (UNSW) that has been innovating online pedagogy, academic professional development and effective online learning strategies since 2003. You can find out more about COFA Online by visiting the COFA Online Gateway website http://online.cofa.unsw.edu.au.

In 2009, COFA Online won funding from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Competitive Grant Scheme to help improve the perception and application of online learning and teaching pedagogy in educational contexts.

The Learning to Teach Online project structure, showing the relationship between the suite of training episodes, the various online dissemination points and the Learning to Teach Online community.

Learning to Teach Online is designed to be practical, flexible, adaptable and easy to access for time-poor teachers. The video and PDF based 'episodes' each examine specific successful online teaching strategies from many different disciplines, offering tips, guidance and pointing out the potential pitfalls to both novice and experienced online teachers. We have interviewed a range of people for this project including Deans, teachers, librarians and students, from different universities in Australia and overseas. You can see an up to date list of who has been interviewed for the project so far by visiting our project website.

This project uses a variety of mainstream and broad-reaching online distribution channels to **freely** disseminate the episodes. You can access the *Learning to Teach Online* via:

COFA Online Gateway   Watch, discuss and rate episodes http://online.cofa.unsw.edu.au

iTunes U   Download podcasts of each episode http://bit.ly/a8DgqO

YouTube   Embed video episodes in your own web sites http://bit.ly/cVOEl8

Project aims

The primary aims of Learning to Teach Online are to:

- *Increase the number of academics who successfully adopt online teaching into their own practice*
- *Help those already teaching to improve and expand their online teaching*
- *Try to improve students' online learning experiences, and help to teachers provide students with the digital communication and collaboration skills and experience they will need in the contemporary workplace.*

By speaking to educators in many different disciplines and institutions, Learning to Teach Online also hopes to break down existing barriers, and establish new dialogues between teaching professionals that will ultimately assist educators in developing the specific knowledge, analytical, planning and online teaching skills they require to confidently integrate sustainable and effective online teaching practice and assessment into existing curricula.

What's in this for you?

We realise that learning how to teach online can be complicated and time consuming, especially on top of an already high workload. This resource has been designed to be incredibly flexible with this in mind. The modular structure means that you can:

- *Learn at your own pace*
- *Save time by quickly finding information and tips about online teaching by watching episodes that you are interested in and that relate to your own teaching situation*
- *Build transferable pedagogic skills that you can take into both online and face-to-face classrooms*
- *Understand the larger context and importance of adopting an online teaching practice for both yourself and your students*
- *See case studies of successful applications on online teaching in different disciplines using a range of technologies, and find out exactly how teachers planned, taught and set up these initiatives*
- *Avoid mistakes by finding out what can go wrong in online teaching and how to avoid or remedy difficult situations with students*
- *Meet educators from around the world in our online community, discuss your online teaching practice and get help from real teachers.*

How to use this resource

As previously mentioned, these episodes are available in a variety of different formats so that you can watch them online, on your smartphone or iPod, or embed the video components into your own web sites.

There are three main types of episodes to help you get the information you need:

- ***Contextual episodes*** *contain interviews from many different academics in a cross-referenced style, covering areas of context, planning and teaching and evaluation*
- ***Case studies*** *take one academic's online course and exploring in depth how they have dealt with these*

issues in practical terms, and looks at the realities of challenges faced and successes that motivate the teacher to continue

- **Technical glossary episodes** are very basic 'how to' style technical help in the form of screen capture videos, that exemplify how to get started in setting up various technologies. These short videos will 'plug into' the case studies, and will also stand alone as a collection of simple tech help videos.

Other aspects of the project to keep in mind that you might find helpful are:

- You can watch the episodes from beginning to end, or simply choose the ones you think are right for you
- When you watch the episodes on the Learning to Teach Online website, other episodes that relate to the issues discussed in the episode you are currently using will automatically be suggested
- You can use a special filter on the website to find all episodes related to particular topics.

Acknowledgements

For more Learning to Teach Online, visit the COFA Online Gateway

To find out more about the Learning to Teach Online project, or to view the video component of this episode, please visit the COFA Online Gateway.

www.online.cofa.unsw.edu.au   VISIT COFA ONLINE GATEWAY ▶

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Search for COFA Online on:

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About COFA Online

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About The University of New South Wales

UNSW has an enrolment of approximately 40,000 students, and is the leading international university in Australia with over 10,000 international enrolments from over 130 nations. UNSW was also ranked as the top university in 2009 in the Australian Government Learning and Teaching Performance Fund for the quality of its teaching.

Australian Learning and Teaching Council