Methods of Online Education Syllabus Summary

Methods of Online Education is a 3 credit hours graduate-level course. It is offered as part of the Online Education program, or as an elective for nursing graduate students. The Online Education project, part of the national *Partners Investing in Nursing* (PIN) initiative, has been generously funded for two years by two national and two local foundations: The Robert Wood Johnson, Northwest Health, Cleveland, and Mt. Sinai Healthcare Foundations. Their funding has enabled the development and implementation of the program, including the provision of 50% tuition coverage for participants enrolled in this course during 2011-12. With this initiative, funders sought to expand the U.S. nursing faculty workforce. For more information on the PIN initiative, visit: http://www.partnersinnursing.org/ OR http://www.partnersinnursing.org/the-cleveland-foundation-ohio/

Prerequisites:

Must be a registered nurse with a masters degree or above, or degree-in-progress; masters degree may be in any field. Computer skills required: ability to use Microsoft Word, send and receive email and attachments, and conduct web browsing. Participants do not need to have taught or taken an online course. Enrollment approval must be granted by the project director, Susan Taft.

Course Description:

This course is designed to develop faculty in methods of effective online instruction. A premise of the course is that high-quality online education both shares with and diverges from methods of instruction used in face-to-face courses. The content draws on teaching and learning processes that have been identified in cross-disciplinary research as effective for the online environment. The course is not intended to prepare participants for all aspects of a nursing faculty role. It is specifically designed for masters- and/or doctoral-level nurses with an interest in part-time online teaching in nursing.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the top drivers to student learning in an online environment.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the various ways that people learn.
3. Distinguish between constructivist and objectivist models of education. Identify the appropriate choice of these models in online education, and differentiate the relative resource utilization/ intensity for each.
4. Identify, define, and apply the three major components of the Community of Inquiry conceptual model.
5. Utilize the systems framework for online learning.
6. Demonstrate comprehension of the connections among: course syllabus, course purpose and learning objectives, student assignments and assessments, and faculty evaluation and grading.

7. Identify the characteristics, methods, and faculty teaching strategies for successful online learning, including but not limited to: promoting active learning, critical thinking and clinical reasoning; types and timing of faculty feedback to students; developing assignments, conducting assessments, and providing evaluations. Practice class facilitation using/applying course theory and exhibiting the ability to promote learning.
8. Experiment with online learning tools and technology.
9. Utilize legitimate and scholarly resources for learning and knowledge development.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of national quality measures and metrics used for online courses.
11. Identify two national accrediting authorities for U.S. schools of nursing.
12. Discuss future relationship challenges part-time nurse educators might experience with regular full-time faculty members and administrators in contracting schools of nursing; develop strategies to enhance successful collaborations among parties.
13. Evidence competent conceptual and technical writing skills in all assignments.

Note: This course as originally offered in Spring, 2011 by Kent State University College of Nursing was certified by Quality Matters. Quality Matters is a national faculty-centered, inter-institutional peer review organization designed to certify the quality of online courses and components. Information available at: http://www.qualitymatters.org/