

Why an Online Endorsement?

There has been many concerns about the quality of online education in recent years. In 2014 the Pennsylvania Department of Education decided to create an Online Teaching Endorsement that will be added to a teacher's PA teaching certificate upon completion of a 12 credit program of study. Educators who earn this endorsement will add to their professional knowledge base and be better prepared to teach online and in blended (face-to-face/online) environments. Schools that are adding courses to an online environment, may view this endorsement as desirable. This endorsement may eventually lead to a full certification sometime in the future.

Summary of Online Endorsement Courses

ED 500 Foundations of Online Learning - This course deals with the important factors to consider in moving a course to an online environment and with teaching online. Students will learn about the principles of effective online instruction, technology tools for teaching online, introductory activities, collaboration, facilitating discussions, digital citizenship, and the need to address special needs in online courses. Students will also set up a basic online course using a Learning Management System program (LMS).

ED 507 - Assessment for Online Learning - This course will focus on using formative and summative assessments in online environments. Topics will include online grading, rubric creation, evaluation tools, plagiarism prevention, record keeping, and assessing web 2.0 tools used in student projects. Item creation for online assessments will be another factor of this course. With many schools moving to a blended environment this course could be a bonus for a face-to-face teaching environment that many educators are beginning to experience.

ED 540 - Principles of Instructional Design in Educational Technology - This course will focus on analyzing, developing, designing, implementing and evaluating a course to be taught in an online environment. The ADDIE model of instructional design will be featured and the various aspects of designing instruction will be explored during this course. Students will take a face-to-face course that they are teaching and for a course project, turn it into an online course using a LMS. More technology tools will be introduced in this course.

ED 513 - Advanced Online Instruction - This course will have students investigate more web 2.0 tools to use in online instruction and feature a teaching experience in an online environment. Students will arrange with their own district/IU or with one arranged by the instructor to co-teach an existing online K-12 course related to their own area of expertise.