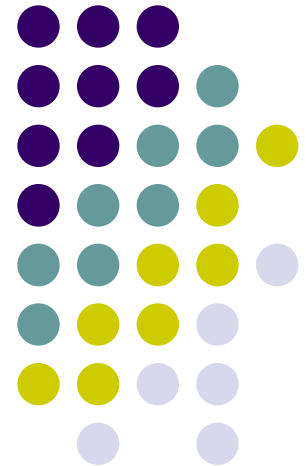


Program Overview and tips for Student Success

Gretchen Hayden
Director, CT Virtual Learning Center
Director, School Partnerships
CT Distance Learning Consortium





What is it?

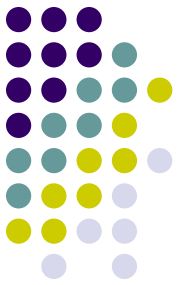
Supplemental online courses for high school students

- Complete course curriculums include:
 - Lessons
 - Assignments
 - Research
 - Class discussions and projects
 - Multiple format assessments include
 - Multiple choice
 - Fill in the blank
 - Essays
 - Papers
- CT State Department of Education approved
- College Board and NCAA approved



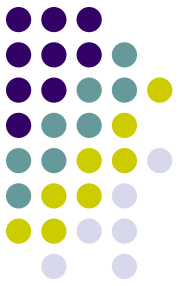
What is it?

- Courses Delivered via Blackboard, Learning Management System (LMS)
 - Online teacher announcements
 - Internal messaging system
 - student to teacher; student to student
 - Internal Discussion Board
 - student to teacher; student to student
 - Mentor observation of student related accounts
 - Parent observation of student related accounts
 - Internal grading and reporting system
 - Includes individualized teacher comments and feedback



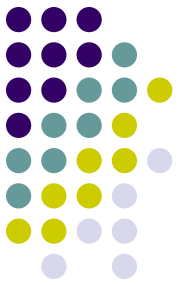
What is it?

- Online lessons are facilitated by CT certified teachers
- Teachers hired by the CT Distance Learning Consortium
 - Online application & hiring process includes:
 - Current teacher certification and credentials
 - -Survey to measure student-centered approach to instruction
 - -Online training course: Introduction to Online Instruction
 - -Access to actual course “sandbox” for practice and training
 - Mentorship by experienced online instructors
 - Additional online training in online instruction is available



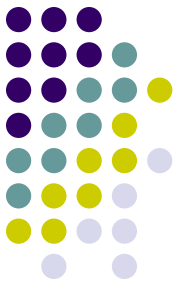
How does it work?

- All Schools have desktop access to:
 - Online registration
 - Online reporting that includes
 - Roster reports
 - Progress reports
 - Student completion and grade reports
 - An Online Communication system for access to:
 - CT Virtual Learning Center administration
 - Local student-assigned mentors and administrators
 - The online teacher



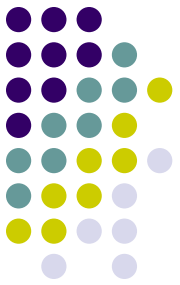
How does it work?

- **All schools must accept terms and conditions:**
 - At least one **Online Learning Coordinator** per school
 - Enrolls students
 - Maintains services (access to a compliant computer, the internet and books, a workable schedule, and other needs as deemed necessary)
 - Assigns local staff to mentor students
 - Maintains transcripts, records and reporting including awarding credit/s as they are earned



How does it work?

- terms and conditions continued:
 - A local **Mentor** must be assigned on a one-one basis for each student taking an online course to:
 - Maintain regular contact with the student (weekly).
 - Track student progress and encourage the student as is necessary.
 - Log in and read/review/respond to messages sent by the online instructor to the local mentor.
 - Act as the local liaison for the student in the event of extenuating circumstances.
 - Mentors will be permitted to view the student grade book and corrected assignments, teacher comments as is needed.

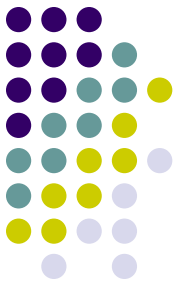


Online Learning Coordinator and Mentor Training:

- Scheduled online meetings (Breeze, Live-Meeting)
- Online tutorials
- Individualized face to face training
- Phone follow-ups as needed

Most programs do very well with very little formal training.

- Regular support is available



Academic Integrity:

LMS tools include:

- Course Statistics
 - Dates/days/times/online site was accessed
- Grade Book
 - Date and time of all submitted work
 - Exams can be required to be taken on-site and cleared if not in compliance

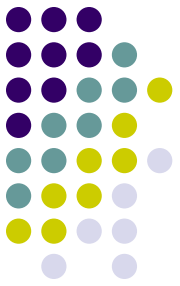
External Tools & Strategies:

- Turnitin.com plagiarism detection
- Oral Assessments at key points in the course
- Regular multiple forms of communication/ written voice recognition



Why take online courses?

- Resolve scheduling conflicts at school.
- Allow student flexibility to meet other school / family / work commitments.
- Offer courses not available at the student's home school.
- Student needs to make up a credit.
- Online may be a better-suited learning environment.
- Gain the experience of taking a distance education course.
- Provides opportunity for student to complete course/s at an accelerated pace.
- Provides extended time to complete coursework for those students who need additional time.
- Meet the needs of a transferring student.
- Students who have medical conditions that may not allow them to be present for a full day.
- Prepare for the 21st century global workforce.



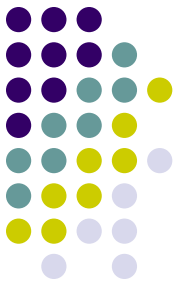
Tips for Student Success:

- Is Online Learning for Me? Personal Assessment
- Online Orientation Tool
- Pace Chart
- Scheduled time
- Begin immediately once registered
- Regular mentor meetings
- Follow progression
 - Lessons-assignments- assessments



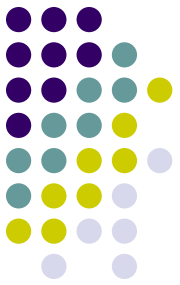
Tips for Student Success- continued:

- Online is not a shortcut
- Use the LMS tools
- Write down/submit questions weekly
- Use teacher office hours
- Ask again, when you still don't get it
- Don't fall behind
- Save all your work externally
- Keep a binder of important papers



Tips for Student Success- continued :

- Build rapport with teacher and classmates
 - Discussion Board
 - Course messaging system
- Persist – don't give up!



Quality:

Quality is of utmost importance to us.

- Student Surveys
- Teacher Surveys

Please contact us with all questions, concerns and ideas and to register for courses.

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