

Five Reasons Why You Should Contact an Instructional Designer

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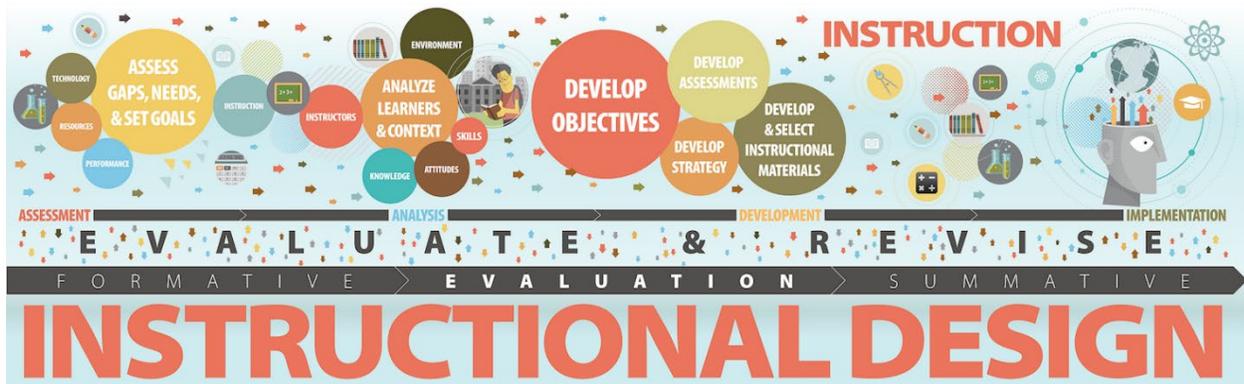


IMAGE FROM [HTTPS://EDUCATIONALTECHNOLOGY.NET/INSTRUCTIONAL-DESIGN/](https://EDUCATIONALTECHNOLOGY.NET/INSTRUCTIONAL-DESIGN/)

Instructional designers play a key role in making sure that online learning experiences are effective and easy to understand. They collaborate with subject-experts (faculty) to develop curriculum and delivery strategies, and to make sure students are learning efficiently and are ready for the next challenges. Since instructional designers are experts in both technology and education, they contribute with intuitive and pertinent methods for building online courses. In this article, we will look at some of the ways Instructional Designers are important for the creation of learning content and online learning experiences.

1. Content organization

The success of a quality online class starts with the organization of the content. Understanding the semester/term calendar and developing a detailed outline of the course content will promote a positive online learning experience for the students. Instructional designers help streamline and structure information/content in a way that makes it easy to learn and incorporate into the students' academic journey.



2. Interactive activities

With the fast and robust advancements in technology, the possibilities are almost infinite for the ways in which you can promote interaction for your learners. Most of the Learning Management Systems (Blackboard at TTU) offer a fantastic variety of built-in tools designed to facilitate the creation of interactive content. The instructional designer can identify gaps within the course design and provide ways in which to fill them with the use of interactive multimedia, games, and synchronous sessions, along with many other alternatives.



3. Course quality check



Instructional designers will assure that each online course presents best practices of online learning. Essentially, IDs will determine if the flow of information is sequential and smooth without losing context. This will assure that the course is not overly complex, and instead is intuitive with the concepts presented in an uncluttered manner that caters effectively to a wide variety of learners. The TTU eLearning team uses the OSCQR rubric—an adaptable tool for the quality review of online courses—to help faculty who are teaching online classes, and to ensure these online courses are learner-centered and well designed.

4. Keeping students engaged

Creating more engaging courses will promote student participation and attention so they are more apt to retain the new knowledge and skills they are learning, making online learning a worthwhile experience. A frequent presence by the instructor is the first step in creating an engaging online course. Facilitating synchronous sessions, one-on-one consultations, and group activities encourage students to interact with each other to support community learning. Ultimately, students must recognize that what they are learning is applicable to them; they will be more engaged if they understand the relevance of what they are learning within the context of “real life.” Case studies and practical scenarios can also help to drive learners’ motivation and interest for knowing more.



5. Troubleshooting



In today’s online education environment, there are some common terms that some instructors may not be familiar with: LMS, Blackboard, Proctorio, etc. Instructional designers don’t expect faculty to be an expert in everything related to online education. We are here to help set-up a n entire course, or for the small and quick questions that might come up as you play with your online course shell. Instructional designers are not IT specialists, but we can provide support within a wide range of areas such as setting up discussion boards, organizing grade books, mixing media, preparing documents, recording and uploading videos, as well as many other instructional and technological support questions.

Instructional designers understand that faculty are busy with teaching, duties as a department head, research efforts, etc.; there are a multitude of things you could be doing at any given time. In order to make the best use of your time, stick to what you know—instructional designers can help safeguard your schedule by brainstorming ideas and handling some of the more time-consuming tasks. Our goal is to work together with faculty to deliver meaningful and successful online courses that positively impact our students.

To learn more about our services and how we can help you with your courses, please visit the TTU eLearning [Faculty and Staff Services](#) website. If you are interested in scheduling a consultation with an Instructional Designer from our eLearning team, please send an email to elearning.id@ttu.edu. We look forward to working with you!

