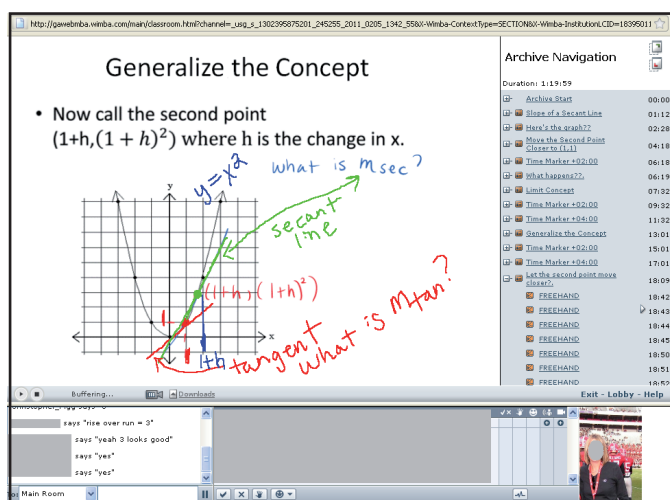


and step-by-step instruction on how to work out problems. For example, one instructor decided to produce archived instructional videos in conjunction with Camtasia. Those videos are being implemented in all Pre-Calculus course modules for the first time during the summer 2011 term.

For the future, eCore is planning to further expand the benefits of multimedia and a multisensory approach into eCore courses. For FY 2012, eCore has already begun working with instructors to produce introductory videos into their courses. Additionally, eCore will continue to work with subject matter experts and instructors to determine the most effective technologies and to add instructional videos into the eCore MATH courses.



MATH1501 Calculus Instructional Session via Wimba Classroom Incorporating Bamboo Wacom Tablet

Materials Cost Awareness

eCore is aware of the costs of texts and materials for the eCore courses. On a small scale, eCore works to evaluate ways to make the most of resources available for students so that they can settle more smoothly into their courses with less financial burden. The eCore Curriculum & Instruction department has implemented the following initiatives:

- The use of previously-owned and ebook options, if applicable, for course texts
- Practice of updating required texts only when necessary for pedagogical improvements in course or when old version is out of print

- Course revision with specific mission to reduce costs and analyze efficiency of use of text and materials; option of revising courses without required texts

Effectiveness of Faculty Instruction

End-of-Semester Student Course Evaluations

Two weeks prior to the end of each semester, eCore students are issued the eCore Course Evaluation. This online survey links directly on the course homepage and gauges students' satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their professor, their course, and their overall experience with eCore while taking online classes. Aggregate survey results for FY 2011 can be found at <http://ecore.usg.edu/admin>. Within the online survey students are prompted to respond to the following statement: "Overall the instructor taught this online course effectively." The table below shows the 2011 academic year's results for this question. Overall, more than 77% of students agreed that eCore instructors taught the course effectively.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	48.77%	902
Agree	28.33%	543
Neutral	9.73%	206
Disagree	8.63%	186
Strongly Disagree	4.50%	97
Not Applicable	0.03%	1
TOTAL	100%	1935

*Responses to survey item statement, "Overall the instructor taught the course effectively" for FY 2011

Formative Evaluations

In Spring 2011, eCore initiated a push for faculty to consider formative evaluations within their course to prompt course improvement during the term. While some faculty had already practiced this strategy, the eCore Instructional Designer educated and reminded faculty of the potential benefits of this type of measure. Of 72 faculty teaching eCore courses, 28 attempted a formative activity at the midpoint of the term; 11 performed the assessment in survey format and 17

provided an anonymous or open discussion. When asked about the evaluation and the effectiveness, most comments were positive:

“Only 15 students participated but I felt it was very informative for me; I feel better that the students know I am available and that I do respond to them quickly. That is a common frustration in online classes so I am happy to know my students do not feel I am absent!”

Kelley C

eCore Curriculum and Instruction staff plan to promote this initiative with more vigor in future terms and better assess faculty best practices overall. eCore believes that success stories from colleagues will motivate fellow faculty to participate and work toward improving their courses throughout the terms they teach.

USG Institutions with Five or More Active eCore Faculty

For FY 2011, 15 different USG institutions employed multiple (two or more) eCore instructors while four USG institutions had more than five faculty members teach eCore courses. Schools with five or more eCore instructors are Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, North Georgia College & State University, the University of West Georgia, and Valdosta State University.

eCore Teaching Experience of Faculty

Over time, the experience of the faculty who teach eCore has increased. Most faculty who are currently hired to teach eCore have taught online or distance courses previously. The majority of eCore instructors were “veterans,” that is, they had taught eCore courses previously. Research has shown that experienced instructors have better retention in courses and have higher course satisfaction ratings from students. See the Faculty Chart of Appendix for details on faculty who have taught for eCore.

Did You Know?

- All USG institutions are invited to nominate faculty to teach eCore courses.
- There were 79 faculty, representing 23 different USG institutions, who taught eCore courses during FY 2011.
- Most faculty have taught eCore more than one time.
- There were four faculty members who taught eCore five times or more during FY 2011.

FY 2011 USG Institutions with Five or More eCore Faculty Members

