

## Faculty Review of Course Evaluations

The eCore Curriculum and Instruction department provides faculty with three important items for review and reflection of their performance:

1. A course evaluation (completed by students)
2. An instructor evaluation (completed by the eCore Dean)
3. An instructor evaluation survey (completed by the faculty member)

eCore instructors review the results of the evaluations and then complete the Instructor Evaluation Summary survey.

### Course Evaluations

Faculty have access to results from both closed and open-ended questions in the course evaluation. Student identification and information are not included.

### Instructor Evaluations

The Instructor Evaluation currently includes:

- Two elements from the course evaluation (timeliness of response to students and overall instructor effectiveness)
- Course retention percentages and the average retention for the course subject area
- Discussion quality and participation measures
- Individual ABC success rate and average success rate for the course subject area for review purposes only

### Instructor Evaluation Summary

After reviewing both Course and Instructor Evaluations, eCore Faculty are required to reflect and report on their overall effectiveness within the course. The Instructor Evaluation Summary poses the following questions:

- After reviewing your student evaluations, what do you think went well in the class?
- What was problematic? What needs to be improved?
- What do you plan to change next time you teach the course?

## Major Findings

In FY 2013, faculty evaluation summaries revealed:

- Increased use of self-tests and study guides
- More supplemental resources such as recorded webinars and audio enhanced PowerPoints
- Use of enhanced D2L grading tools to provide more individual student feedback on assignments and discussion (SP13)
- Greater emphasis on flexibility in terms of late policy and course structure

## eCore Faculty Training and Certification

All potential eCore Faculty are required to complete a two-week eCore certification course. During FY 2013, 40 instructors from 15 colleges in the University System of Georgia successfully completed certification through this online asynchronous course. The certification process went through a transition for FY 2013 as a result of the change from the BlackBoard Vista Learning Management System to Desire2Learn. While certification members from the Summer 2012 term trained in the BlackBoard Vista system, members from Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 terms trained in the Desire2Learn system. In addition to structural changes, slight modifications were made to course content to reflect new goals toward student success. The fundamentals in eCore policy, procedure, and pedagogy were constant, and all members were effectively coached and guided in preparation of teaching eCore students. Additionally,

each new faculty member was provided with a DEMO course specific to his/her subject area in which guided tasks could be completed and course content could be reviewed. At the end of certification, all faculty were provided with resources, upon request, such as recorded course tours, tool driven tutorials, and access to the Faculty Community.

Online Course Content for Faculty Certification Program:

**Module 1:** eCore Philosophy & Expectations (3 days)

**Module 2:** Course Completion, Student Success & You (3 days)

**Module 3:** Assessments, Evaluations & Exams (2 days)

**Module 4:** Online Teaching Strategies (4 days)

**Module 5:** eCore Proficiency (3 days)

Number of Faculty Certified for FY 2013 Academic Term	
Summer 2012	15
Fall 2012	8
Spring 2013	17
<b>Total Certified</b>	<b>40</b>

Number of Faculty Certified by Institution FY 2013	
Institution	Number of Faculty
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	2
Armstrong Atlantic State University	1
Atlanta Metropolitan College	1
Clayton State University	2
College of Coastal Georgia	6
Dalton State College	2
Fort Valley State University	3
Georgia Perimeter College-Clarkston	1
Georgia State University	1
Macon State College	3
North Georgia College & State University	3
Savannah State University	3
Southern Polytechnic State University	1
University of West Georgia	7
Valdosta State University	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40</b>

## Things are Growing in The Garden of eCore!

The Garden of eCore online Faculty Community has become more than a water-cooler or venting spot for faculty. Since the transition from Blackboard Vista to Desire2Learn began in Fall 2012, the eCore Curriculum and Instruction team has provided a multitude of resources for learning and peer collaboration:

- Prior to the Spring 2013 implementation of D2L, instructional designers and curriculum assistants conducted live and recorded virtual course tours to familiarize faculty members with the course structure of their specific subjects.
- Synchronous online meetings using web-conferencing tools (Wimba Classroom/BB Collaborate) were held for continued professional development of faculty as they progressed through the term as users of the new LMS.

More than previous semesters, faculty members assisted one another across disciplines to share best practices and work-arounds for teaching and navigating with new tools and strategies in the D2L Learning Management System. Additionally, the Subject Nests began to thrive with subject-specific tips and strategies authored by eCore faculty. Upon recent review of the community, 78% of the users engaged with the content and discussions and spent over an average of one hour in the community.

## Recommendations for Course and Faculty Improvement

### Closing the Loop

In FY 2012 the Curriculum and Instruction team shared future course adjustments and reported the intentions to make adjustments to courses or practices based on outcome assessments and evaluations submitted for each eCore subject area for FY 2013. For a full listing and updates on actions taken, please visit the Learning Outcomes section of this factbook: "FY 2013 Course Adjustments By Core Area."