

Designing online courses requires a great deal of planning and preparation. In the virtual environment, student success relies on clear and consistent communication, user-friendly organization of content, community building and active engagement. The resources in this document have been carefully curated for you to balance all of these elements. Please reach out to us at the Frankfort Center for assistance in synthesizing this information into a cohesive and effective course.

Getting Started

Starting early will give you plenty of time to review your course content and ensure a seamless online experience. This [Online Course Design Checklist](#) from Winthrop University is a handy tool to ensure that you've put all the pieces together. For a comprehensive overview of the online course design process, take a look at this [Online Course Design Guide](#) website from MIT or this [Online Course Creation Essentials](#) document from Stanford University. Either will give you a good birds-eye view of the process, as well as detailed information for each step of the process. Finally, you can glean some very helpful tips from author and educator Flower Darby in her article from the Chronicle, [How to Be a Better Online Teacher](#), or watch [this must-see video](#) from Dr. Michael Wesch from Kansas State University.

Organizing Your Course

Online course design should begin with a thoughtful set of learning goals and objectives. Learning Objectives help to define what you aim to teach and how, whereas Learning Outcomes are what you hope for your students to achieve. Objectives and Outcomes become the basis for the structure and organization of your course. To begin, start with this guide on [Writing Learning Outcomes](#) from the University of Melbourne. This will be a guide for you as you begin to organize and structure your course with the help of [this guide](#) from Yale University and [this one](#) from George Washington University. Finally, this guide to [Expanding Your Teacher Presence](#) by author and distance education expert Dr. Judith Boettcher will help you in creating Learning Guides to help your students navigate their learning.

Building Learning Community

Research tells us that building community is a key element in online learning. Debbie Morrison, educator and blogger, in her article [How to Make Online Courses a 'Place' for Learning](#) suggests that online courses have a "unique culture shaped by the people within" which needs to be cultivated. Dr. Michael Wesch created [this fun video](#) to help create videos that can help to foster the creation of learning community by supporting both teacher and social presence. Dr. Judith Boettcher describes [Ten Best Practices for Teaching Online](#) that also support the creation of learning community.

Planning Activities & Assessments

[Instructional Strategies for Online Courses](#)
[Online Teaching Activity Index](#)
[Key Questions for Designing Online Discussions](#)

[Classroom Assessment Techniques](#)
[Technology-Enhanced Classroom Assessment Techniques](#)

Tools and Platforms

[Getting Started with Blackboard](#)
[Getting Started with Google Classroom](#)
[Assessment in Google Classroom](#)

[Getting Started with Zoom](#)
[Hosting a Zoom Session](#)

Resources at Hunter

[Frankfort Center: Delivering Courses Remotely](#)
[Center for Online Learning: Designing Online Courses](#)

FRANKFORT CENTER
FOR LEARNING & SCHOLARLY TECHNOLOGIES

[Office Hours 2-4PM M-Th](#)
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Workshops at Hunter

The Center for Online Learning and ACERT has a variety of upcoming [online course design workshops](#).

- Module Making Camp
- Zero-Week Camp
- Faculty Working Groups

The Frankfort Center will be offering several workshops as well. Check [our website](#) for updates.