

FAQs

What is Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)?

The Texas Virtual School Network is a clearinghouse that provides courses to supplement the instructional programs of public school districts and open enrollment charter schools.

What are the requirements to become an online teacher through TxVSN?

Each teacher of an electronic course offered by a school district or open-enrollment charter school through the state virtual school network must: (a) be certified to teach that course and grade level; and (b) successfully complete the appropriate professional development course before teaching an electronic course offered through TxVSN. TxVSN-approved professional development is required for teachers prior to teaching online courses for the TxVSN.

What are the benefits of teaching online?

Distance education is changing the way we teach and learn. Because technology has made it possible to teach in a virtual environment, more and more educators are embracing online teaching as an alternative method of instruction. Likewise, students are finding that online learning can be the perfect match for their learning styles.

How many CPE credits will I receive after completing the Region One Online Instructor Certification Course?

After successful completion of the five week course, participants will be awarded 25 CPE credits.

How much does the online course cost?

The cost for the five week Region One Online Instructor Certification Course (ROOICC) is \$500.00.

How many hours should I spend working on each module?

Each participant should anticipate spending at least three hours per week completing module activities.



Course Enrollment

Teachers who are interested in enrolling in the ROOICC can do so by registering online through the Region One Staff Development site: www.esc1.net/staffdevelopment

A minimum of two (2) courses will be offered during the school year: one course in the fall semester and one course in the spring semester. Additional courses will also be offered during the summer. The maximum enrollment for each course is 20 participants. Participants who are not able to enroll in the current course will be placed on a waiting list and will be given first priority for enrollment when the next course becomes available.

Payment for the course must be made at time of registration. Participants are not considered enrolled until payment has been processed and approved. Acceptable forms of payment include PO, Credit Card, or Check. Please make all forms of payment payable to: Region One Education Service Center.



For more information, contact:

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Online Instructor Certification Course

Approved by the
Texas Virtual School Network



www.txvsn.org



Course Description

The **Region One Online Instructor Certification Course (ROOICC)** is a five (5) week online course for teachers without experience in online instruction who are interested in becoming TxVSN online instructors. Through a series of weekly module activities, participants will explore the many aspects of online teaching and learning and develop the necessary skills to become an effective online instructor.

Course Format

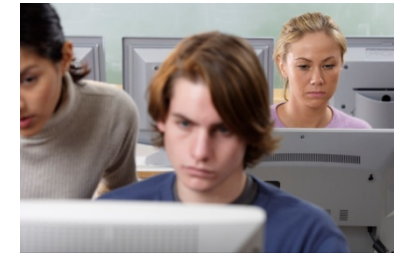
The course is based on a weekly module format. Each module is comprised of three (3) elements: Resources, Assigned Activities, and Reflection Forums.

Participants will begin each module by reading/listening to a variety of resources such as video clips, audio files, journal articles, and websites. An online discussion of the resources will be included as part of the learning process. Participants will be able to apply what they've learned by completing assigned activities that are engaging and relevant to the topic being discussed. Finally, participants will be able to critically analyze what they have learned throughout the module by participating in a reflection forum.

Course Goals

At the end of the five week course, participants will:

- develop a deep understanding of the online teaching and learning environment by participating in interactive activities which parallel the instructional scheme students and teachers will encounter in online learning environments;
- build a supportive collegial network by participating in collaborative activities;
- identify best practices in online pedagogy;
- examine the unique differences in the role of the online instructor, the online learner, and the liaison;
- identify and apply motivational strategies to promote student success;
- incorporate effective instructional strategies and activities that encourage active learning and collaboration to generate meaning;
- employ the use of learning styles and adapt instructional strategies to maximize student achievement and transfer of knowledge;
- use data to effectively assess student achievement and provide valuable feedback to promote student success;
- evaluate the effectiveness of online course design and delivery; and
- promote the ethical, safe, and legal use of technology tools and resources in an online learning environment.



Participant Skill Requirements

To successfully complete the activities within each course module, it is highly recommended that all participants know how to:

- Copy, paste, save, create folders, upload documents, etc.
- Utilize software applications (MS Word, PowerPoint, Publisher)
- Conduct basic Internet searches
- Communicate via E-mail

Technical Requirements

Participants should have access to an Internet capable computer that is equipped with the following recommended standards:

- Operating system: Windows XP; Mac OS X
- Processor: 1.60 GHz; 256MB RAM or higher
- Microsoft Office Suite 2003
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 8 or higher
- Shockwave, Java and Flash 9 plug ins
- Windows Media Player; Quicktime Player
- Internet Explorer and/or Mozilla Firefox