Cool Tools for Educators

This learning pathway is a series of classes that gives faculty an in-depth exploration of technology tools that can aid educators in the classroom and help students to achieve success with Learning. College Faculty are introduced to a wide variety of technological tools that can be used with their students.

Office 365 provides educators with traditional Microsoft Office Tools, which can be used to create documents, spreadsheets, presentations. Microsoft’s One Drive provides cloud storage and document hosting opportunities for faculty and their students. Communication tools such as Blackboard Communication Tools, and Google Hangouts provide ways to communicate with students virtually. Social media tools such as Facebook, and Twitter can facilitate robust class activities, in online realms where students already congregate.

Another important consideration for educators who are evaluating technology, is, the selection of appropriate technological tools. Faculty completing Cool Tools for Teaching will be provided a framework to help them decide which tools to use and when.

All classes have been selected with special consideration to the unique challenges and opportunities that educators face.

Are there any pathway prerequisites?

There are no pathway prerequisites, however, we recommend starting with the Course Teaching with Technology.

Learning Outcomes

- Survey a broad spectrum of technology tools and techniques for usage in face-to-face and online classrooms.
- Create an ePortfolio that captures one idea that can be used in their classroom for each tool presented.
- Develop a capstone project, used in a face-to-face, or online course that demonstrates a Cool Tools for Teaching idea or technique used in classroom practice (online, or face to face).

Portfolio

Faculty who take the independent study Cool Tools for Educators should review the pathway courses carefully and think about practical applications for the material they are learning in their own classrooms.

To assist with this process:

- Faculty will create a portfolio that details one thing they might like to try in their classroom that was highlighted in each course.

- Faculty will select one idea that they actually implement in their course. They will also reflect on how their course has improved since implementing the technology in their courses.

Cool Tools for Teaching—– class overview

*Although faculty can complete the pathway courses in any order, it is recommended that they start with the Teaching with Technology course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cool Tools for Teaching:</th>
<th>Brief Class Description:</th>
<th>Course Location:</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching with technology:</td>
<td>A wide variety of technical tools are explored, with faculty given a practical framework for integrating these tools and teaching. Faculty learn how to apply Universal Design for Learning Principles, how to use technology to prepare content, using technology to share content, and using technology for both in class and online activities. Assessing student work using technology, and facilitating student presentations and other activities are also reviewed.</td>
<td>Lynda.com</td>
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| Office 2016 for Educators: | Discussion of Office 2016 tools from a perspective of working as an educator. Topics covered include:  
- Creating effective presentations using PowerPoint  
- Empowering students with PowerPoint  
- Developing Centralized File Storage with One Drive  
- Using One Note to Store Class Notes and create lessons | Lynda.com | |
| * Please note that faculty should material that discusses office mix. Support for office mix was retired May 1, 2018. Also note that all MC employees have an office 365, which includes One Drive. |
| PowerPoint for Teachers: Creating Interactive Lessons | This course gives faculty an overview of effective use of PowerPoint, and then goes a step further to teach faculty skills to create interactive PowerPoints. The creation of games is considered, in addition to ways to add active learning inquiry to lectures via PPT. | Lynda.com | |
| Social Media in the Classroom | Faculty are introduced to a smorgasbord of social media apps that they can use with their students. In addition to introducing the capabilities of the tools, faculty are given real world practical guidance about using the tool with students. Templates are also provided. Faculty should also keep in mind that many of these ideas can be implemented in Montgomery College’s Learning Management system, Blackboard. | Lynda.com | |
| *Please note that the tool called Today’s Meet no longer exists. Faculty can skip the subheadings titled Using Today’s Meet or Go React to facilitate in class feedback for class discussions. |
| Blackboard Communication Tools | Faculty learn how to use Blackboard to create discussion activities with their students. Faculty are also introduced to supplementary material in Journals, blogs, and wikis, allowing them to recreate many of the exercises from this learning pathway using Montgomery College’s Learning Management system. | Blackboard/Sign up on MC Learns | |
| Educational Technology for Student Success | Educational Technology plays a critical role in student success. Strategies for organizing, realistically planning projects, and free or low cost apps that can help keep students and faculty on track. QR Codes, Google Earth, Google Scholar, using mobile devices to capture video, YouTube, and the Explain everything app are among topics covered. | Lynda.com | |

**Ideas I can use from Teaching with Technology for Educators**

*Note, In Addition to Certificates of completion, each faculty member wanting to receive credit for Teaching with Technology for Educators must complete a portfolio detailing one idea that could be used for each Lynda.com class watched in the pathway. Faculty must also select one idea to implement in their courses as a capstone project.*
Capstone
From the ideas you have selected above choose ONE idea that you will actually implement in one of your courses. After implementing the idea in your course, you must consider whether the idea helped your students in the classroom. This is a work product, could be a PowerPoint, Video, PDF file, new lesson materials created, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching with Technology for Educator’s Course</th>
<th>My Course Name</th>
<th>Idea that I implemented in my course</th>
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Provide a Link to the capstone project that you created

Did this idea help your students become more successful in the classroom? Why or why not?

Will you Use this idea again? Why or Why not?