

EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING AWARD

Overview

A successful application for this award will clearly describe sustained contributions to student learning through innovative online teaching and course design practices as well as service and scholarly contributions to the field. This can include any or all of the following: unique and effective online instructional practices, extraordinary overall course design, well-developed individual course materials, innovative use of instructional technology, and/or research or service toward the advancement of online education.

Eligibility

Eligible faculty and instructors will:

- Hold any MSU Denver academic or administrative rank.
- Have taught at least nine MSU Denver online, hybrid mostly online, or self-paced online credits in the past five years.
 - See the definitions of online, hybrid mostly online, and self-paced online instructional methods in the [Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Manuals](#).
- Be the original content creator for the course(s) on which the submission is based.
- Have not won this award in the previous 10 years.

General Evaluation Criteria

A holistic committee review will consider evidence of the following:

- Innovative online teaching practices that result in student engagement, student satisfaction, and the achievement of desired learning outcomes.
- Examination of the methods of student learning assessment to inform teaching practices and reshape online course design.
- Extraordinary commitment to fostering academic success through effective collaboration and rapport with individual learners.
- Development and utilization of extraordinary overall course design, individual course materials, and instructional strategies.
- Service and scholarly activity that enhances the student experience in online courses, advances online education, and supports fellow instructors in improving their course design and teaching practices.
- Course design and instructional practices connected to MSU Denver's CADRE values – Community, Access, Diversity, Respect, and Entrepreneurship.

Submission Materials

Award applications are **limited to 8 pages** and are submitted through the [Excellence in Online Teaching Award online form](#). The review committee is looking for exceptional course design, implementation of that design through instruction, and impact on students and fellow educators. A complete application will include:

- A teaching and learning philosophy statement provided by the applicant. This statement should include, but is not limited to, a discussion of the challenges, strategies, and goals of online course design and instruction, as well as what makes the applicant's course(s) and teaching practice uniquely exceptional. **(Not to exceed one page)**.
- Summary of online courses taught to meet the nine-credit requirement described in the Eligibility section, including the course prefix & number, title, semester taught, instructional method, census enrollment, SRI scores and comments (see SRI Collection Instructions below). **(Not to exceed five pages)**.

- Up to three pieces of digitally-available evidence of exceptional online teaching practices, course design practices, or efforts within online education, including but not limited to: highlighting the success of the applicant’s students, selected components of course syllabi, handouts, assignment descriptions, student work, direct samples from online discussions, video clips, assignment rubrics, instructional tools/technologies built by the applicant, accessibility efforts, innovative methods of assessing student learning and achievement, peer evaluations, student mentoring and advising, peer mentoring, and/or service and scholarship relevant to promoting and improving online education.
 - Each artifact should require no more than 5-10 minutes for review (e.g. directing the committee to watch five minutes of a 20-minute video is appropriate, a request to watch an hour-long video or read a 10-page research paper is not).
 - To keep within the page limitation, briefly describe the three artifacts and provide links, digital samples, etc. as needed. **(Description of all three artifacts not to exceed one page).**
- One or two letters of support from someone with direct experience of the applicant’s online course(s) and teaching practice (current or past students, or a colleague knowledgeable about the applicant’s work). **(Not to exceed one page each).**

SRI Collection Instructions

- Visit [Digital Measures](#) and pull a “Rapid Report” called “SRI Report” for the most recent semesters that include at least nine credits of online instruction.
- Open the SRI Report and remove any SRI information not related to online teaching.
- Follow the links in the SRI Report to access the student comments for the relevant online courses (re-enter your credentials). Save the resulting PDFs.
- Copy and paste the SRI Report (numerical summary) and all student comments for relevant courses from the PDFs into your application document, organized by course.

Application Review

- The review committee will select the strongest evidence-based case for exemplary online teaching and course design based upon information provided in the award application.
- The Award Review Rubric at the end of this document will guide the committee’s selection.
- Applicants are encouraged to use this rubric for a self-evaluation prior to submission.

Submission Process

- Complete the [Excellence in Online Teaching Award online form](#) and upload a SINGLE Word (*.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf) file including all materials.
- To be considered, submissions should not exceed 8 pages or a file size of 3mb.
- **The application deadline is end of day March 8th.**

Selection

- **Two recipients will be selected.**
- The award selection process is collaboratively overseen by the Office of the Provost and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Design.
- Awards are presented at the annual Roadrunners Who SOAR Celebration on April 8, 11am – 1pm.
- Applicants for the award may not serve on the review committee.

Assistance

For more information about the Excellence in Online Teaching Award, contact Director of Online Programs Matt Griswold at mgriswo2@msudenver.edu or 608.609.6033.

EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING AWARD REVIEW RUBRIC

Instructions: Using the rubric below, please score each category based on written examples of criterion you identify within the application. Note the points earned in each category with the potential to earn 46 points in total. Scores from each reviewer will be averaged and ranked as part of the award selection process.

Applicant Name:

College/Department:

Category and Criteria	No Evidence 0 Points	Meets 3 Points	Exceeds 6 Points	Outstanding 10 Points	Comments	Points
Evidence of Learner Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of a variety of online assessment techniques ▪ Evidence of improved DFW rates ▪ Scores on national exams or other indicators of student proficiency ▪ Student success in future related coursework ▪ Other evidence of improvement in student learning 	No Evidence	Evidence of 1 Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 2-3 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Strong but not Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 4-5 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion		
Student Feedback on Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of improved SRI scores ▪ Students’ written comments address their own learning ▪ Students comment on the positive impact of the faculty member ▪ Students communicate faculty member’s impact to chair/other faculty ▪ Students support submission for university, regional, or national awards ▪ Other evidence of positive student perceptions of instruction 	No Evidence	Evidence of 1 Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 2-4 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Strong but not Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 5-6 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion		
Pedagogical Practices/Teaching Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence-based teaching methods developed or applied ▪ Use of active learning techniques ▪ Use of research-based approaches to learning assessment ▪ Use of engaged learning and effective collaboration ▪ Integration of technology or other innovations ▪ Participation in assessment for continuous improvement of online courses 	No Evidence	Evidence of 1 Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 2-4 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Strong but not Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 5-6 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion		
Course Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the university template ▪ Impactful use of hardware/software to reach learning outcomes ▪ Evidence-based use of technology tools to effectively deliver a course ▪ Use of individually developed course materials or assessments ▪ Involvement in Quality Matters trainings and certifications ▪ Completed internal or external course reviews ▪ Use of Course Launch, Assist, Constellation, or informal support ▪ Significant online course iterations 	No Evidence	Evidence of 1-2 Criteria	Breadth – Evidence of 3-6 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Strong but not Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion	Breadth – Evidence of 7-8 Criteria Depth – Evidence of <i>Exceptional</i> Impact in Any Criterion		
Connecting Service and Scholarly Activities to Online teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentations/workshops/research/publications related to online education ▪ University committee membership on topics that impact online education ▪ Member of online education professional organizations ▪ Led a faculty learning community on an online topic or taught departmental faculty members about online best practices ▪ Evidence of positive impact on others’ online teaching 	No Evidence	Evidence of any Criterion (3 Possible Points)				
CADRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community, access, diversity, respect and/or entrepreneurship are guiding values of the faculty member and are infused throughout the submission. 	No Evidence	Evidence of any Criterion (3 Possible Points)				