

Take an Online Class This Summer!

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has been creating and providing Technology Standards for Teachers since 1993. A new version of the standards was released in 2000. They "focus on preservice teacher education, [and] define the fundamental concepts, knowledge, skills, and attitudes for applying technology in educational settings."¹ The standards also help practicing teachers assess their skills and need for training. In this column, we will look at various online classes teachers can take this summer to fulfill the Technology Standards for Teachers.

I. Technology Operations and Concepts²

The first standard asks teachers to demonstrate introductory knowledge, skills, and understanding of technology concepts and to stay abreast of current and emerging technologies. Apple Staff Development Online offers several courses on topics such as "AppleWorks 5 101," "Internet 101," "Microsoft Office 101," "QuickTime 101," and "Introduction to iMac."³ Most of these courses are useful for Windows users, too, and are available for credit.⁴ Participants learn to use a tool or application in an educational context and to create materials or a project to use in the classroom or for personal productivity.

Classroom Connect's Connected University offers courses, step-by-step tutorials, and discussions with other learners. Teachers create a portfolio of projects for each class. A number of their classes fulfill this ISTE requirement: "Computer Basics," "E-mail Basics," "Internet Basics," and "Internet in the Classroom: First Steps."⁵

II. Planning and Designing Learning Environments and Experiences

To meet this standard, teachers must be able to plan and design effective learning environments and experiences that are supported by technology. Two courses offered this summer through TAGeducation focus on learning experiences:⁶

- "Internet in the Curriculum" includes course modules on effective search strategies, Internet lesson plans and projects, organizing and planning student Internet research, and creating Web pages to support classroom instruction and communication with parents.

- "Developing WebQuests" takes teachers through the process of creating a WebQuest, an inquiry-oriented activity that uses mostly online resources.⁷ At the close of the class, each teacher will have a completed project to use in the classroom. Both of these courses integrate faith and learning and the unique Adventist perspective on education.

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Other course possibilities include "It's Never Too Soon: Using Technology in Early Childhood Education" from Connected University, as well as "Essential Questions," "Project-Based Learning Supported by Multimedia," "Research Using Technology's Information Tools," and "Teaching Multiple Intelligences Through Technology," to name a few. Apple offers two courses on technology integration: "Multimedia in the Classroom" and "Internet in the Classroom." Each of these courses focuses on technology-supported learning environments.

This ISTE standard also asks teachers to plan strategies to manage student learning. Connected University offers a helpful course in this area: "Management Strategies in the Technology Classroom."

III. Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum

In meeting this standard, teachers "implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize stu-

dent learning." Most online courses do not require teachers to actually test the unit with their students. However, this spring, a class called "Integrating Technology Into the Curriculum" was piloted with a select number of teachers. This course is taught through TAGeducation, with credit available from Griggs University in Silver Spring, Maryland. It addresses National Educational Technology for Teachers Standards II through VI and strongly encourages teachers to test their units with their students and to reflect on the process.⁸ During the course, participants experience the classroom use of inquiry, higher-level thinking skills, active learning, and project-based learning that they can apply in their own teaching. Teachers learn to assess the use of technology, as well as their students' learning and knowledge. This course also integrates faith and learning and the unique Adventist perspective, as well as the social, ethical, legal, and human issues of technology.

Another course meeting this

standard is being offered by Andrews University. The course, "Technology Tools for Literacy," meets online for five weeks, June 11 to July 20, 2001. Participants will create online activities for use with literacy units and learn to use the writing process tool, Inspiration. The course emphasizes the use of technology tools in the literacy curriculum.⁹

IV. Assessment and Evaluation

So often, technology advocates forge ahead while neglecting the all-important assessment component. This standard requires teachers to use a variety of assessment techniques, to employ technology to collect and analyze data to improve instructional practice, and to apply multiple methods to evaluate student use of technology resources. Related courses include Connected University's "Assessing Technology Integration" and "Creative Assessment Strategies." The course mentioned above, "Integrating Technology Into the Curriculum," addresses assessment as well.

V. Productivity and Professional Practice

Teachers should use technology not only to improve student learning, but also to enhance their own productivity and professional practice. As we noted in the last column, teachers usually start to use technology to create worksheets, record grades, communicate with parents, etc. Apple's courses on basic productivity software (such as AppleWorks or Microsoft Office) include the creation of materials for classroom and teacher use. Both Apple and Connected University offer classes on creating Web pages, a great way to communicate with the community and parents. Connected University also offers a course called "Collaborating With Parents," which focuses on how technology can help teachers involve parents in classroom learning.

VI. Social, Ethical, Legal, and Human Issues

To meet this standard, teachers must model and teach ethical and legal use of technology, address various learning styles and diversity, promote and use technology safely, and ensure equitable access to technology in their classrooms. The course mentioned above, "Integrating Technology Into the Curriculum," deals with these issues. Connected University offers a course entitled "Fundamentals of School Legal Issues" that partially meets this standard.

Other Online Courses

Adventist colleges and universities are also offering online courses:

- **Walla Walla College** (College Place, Washington), is offering SOWK 466 "Comparative Theories in Social Work Practice"; JOUR 400 "Introduction to Screenwriting"; and EDUC 444 "Teaching Students of Diverse Cultures."¹⁰

- **Southern Adventist University School of Business Management** (Collegedale, Tennessee): Master of Business Administration. This summer, they are offering "Seminar in Entrepreneurship" May 7 to June 21 and "Contemporary Issues in Management" July 9 to August 23.¹¹

- **Southern Adventist University School of Education and Psychology:** *Undergraduate level:* "Technology in Education," "Psychology, Foundations of Education," "Psychology of Exceptional Children and Youth," and several more under development, including "History and Systems of Psychology." *Graduate level:* "Principles of Counseling," "Technology and the Educator," and the following under development: "Research Design," and "Curriculum Design."¹²

- **La Sierra University** (Riverside, California): North American Division teacher credential courses. Check their Web site to see what will be offered this summer.¹³

- **Andrews University Department of Educational Administration and Leadership** (Berrien Springs, Michigan): EDAL 670 "Information Management Technology in Education: Administration"¹⁴ and EDAL 520 "Foundations of Educational Leader-


ship." Other classes are offered online by arrangement for individual students.¹⁵

Additional courses can be found by searching the Web.¹⁶

Considerations

Apple's courses are attractively priced at \$49 each. To take advantage of Connected University's pricing structure (\$300 for access to all courses for a year), a teacher would need to enroll in many courses during the year and commit a significant amount of time for professional development.

Taking an online course requires significant learner commitment. In a traditional class, the student can sit at the back of the class and slide through. In an online class, he or she either gets actively involved or fails. Ask yourself: Am I serious, self-motivated, and disciplined?¹⁷ Am I comfortable with the idea of learning via technology? Am I persistent and resourceful in solving problems? How much time can I commit to the course work? Am I willing to stick to a schedule?¹⁸ You will need a computer, modem, printer, Internet access, and E-mail, as well as basic computer skills, the ability to browse and search on the Web, and a comfort level with E-mail.

Taking a well-designed online course means exciting interaction with colleagues across the country and even around the world, along with the convenience of taking classes from home. Try an online class this summer and work toward meeting the Technology Standards for Teachers. 

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REFERENCES

1. Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for Teachers can be found at <http://cnets.iste.org/teachstandintro.html>. The NETS for Teachers (National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers) complete document can be found online at <http://cnets.iste.org/index3.html>.

2. Detailed descriptions of each standard can be found at <http://cnets.iste.org/teachstand.html>.

3. For more information and registration, visit <http://www.apple.com/education/professionaldevelopment/workshops.html>.

4. Apple's courses are available for graduate and continuing education credit. For more information, visit <http://www.apple.com/education/professionaldevelopment/credit.html>.

5. Visit Connected University's course listing at http://cu.classroom.com/course_listing.asp.

6. For more information on the courses and on credit and registration, visit <http://www.tageducation.org>.

7. To see a sample WebQuest integrating faith and learning, visit <http://www.andrews.edu/~freedj/1040window/webquest/>.

8. For more information on this course or to register for the summer, visit <http://www.tageducation.org>.

9. For more information, E-mail Louise Moon at lmoon@andrews.edu.

10. Find more information at <http://YOU.wvc.edu> or E-mail David Bullock, director of distance education at Walla Walla College at BullDa@wvc.edu.

11. For more information, E-mail Don Van Ornam at dvanorna@southern.edu.

12. For more information, E-mail Dr. Jon Green at jgreen@southern.edu.

13. Visit <http://www.lasierra.edu/schools/education/distance-learning.html> or E-mail Norman Powell at npowell@lasierra.edu for more information.

14. Visit <http://www2.andrews.edu/~jimjeff/courses.htm> to find more information about this course or E-mail Jim Jeffery at jimjeff@andrews.edu.

15. Contact Dr. Hinsdale Bernard, Chair, Educational Administration and Leadership, at (616) 471-6702 or hbernard@andrews.edu for further information.

16. Visit <http://www.tageducation.org/profdev/3samples.html> for a listing of other courses available online.

17. You can find study tips at <http://www.tageducation.org/profdev/4studylinks.html>.

18. See "Professional Development Without Leaving Home," a presentation handout by Marilyn Eggers, found at <http://www.tageducation.org/profdev/>, presented at the NAD 2000 Teachers Convention, August 2000.