

The mission of the Center for Online Education (COE) at North Park University is to assist with the development and design of flexible course offerings and to provide support for a variety of delivery methods for students seeking an alternative to the traditional classroom environment.

CONTACT INFO

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CENTER FOR ONLINE EDUCATION



**NORTH PARK
UNIVERSITY**
CHICAGO

WHAT DOES COE DO?

The Center for Online Education (COE) plays the lead role in the development and coordination of programs and services to support successful online courses and programs at the University. North Park University offers online education courses in support of baccalaureate programs, certificate programs, and graduate programs.

The COE provides a wide range of resources and assistance for faculty and specialized support services for online students. Support includes clear points of contact for information and assistance. The COE is responsible for administering our campus-wide Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas.

The COE works in a collaborative team partnership between the academic department and school offering the course, Information Technology, the Office of Institutional and Academic Technology and the Office of the Provost.

ONLINE LEARNING

Alternative format—instruction that is delivered any way other than the traditional classroom including, but not limited to: web-enhanced instruction, hybrid instruction, blended instruction, and online instruction.

Hybrid course instruction—an individual course in which a portion of the instruction is delivered as face-to-face instruction and the remainder with online learning instruction.

Online learning course—a generic term referring to an individual course in which instruction occurs online via interactive video conferencing, or the Internet.

Web-enhanced Course—an individual course in which face-to-face instruction is supplemented with materials delivered via online learning, but maintains 100% seat time in face-to-face delivery.

“Offering online education courses allows North Park University to serve a broader base of citizens beyond the confines of regularly scheduled on-campus classes. The option of taking an online course is particularly effective in promoting lifelong learning; people’s life circumstances change and they have flexible options for continuing their education.”

—Dr. Rich Schultz, Assoc. Dean

WHO IS COE?

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QUALITY MATTERS AT NORTH PARK

North Park University is a member of Quality Matters (QM). Quality Matters is a faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online and hybrid courses. Quality Matters is collegial, research-based and recognized. The three main elements of QM are the QM rubric, peer review process and professional development.

Rubric: Reviewers use the rubric as a guide to review courses. There are 21 essential Specific Review Standards. During the course review process, a course must meet all 21 to meet QM expectations and attain QM recognition. The Specific Review Standards carries a weighting of three, two, or one points, depending on relative importance determined by the QM Rubric Review Committee. Specific Review Standards assigned three points are considered essential in a quality online review. In other words, if the course does not meet these standards, it cannot be recognized as a quality online course. Specific Review Standards assigned two points are considered very important. If a course meets most of these it could still be considered a quality course. Specific Review Standards assigned one point are considered important. If a course meets most of these it could still be considered a quality course.

Peer Review Process: Courses that go through the review process are reviewed by a group of three internal reviewers. The team consists of a master reviewer and two peer reviewers, all of whom are certified Quality Matters reviewers.

Professional Development: Quality Matters offers a wide range of professional development online courses which typically run for two or three weeks. If you are interested in taking a QM course, please contact the Center for Online Education.



GOALS

- ▶ To promote growth and diversity of the academic community by utilizing online learning technologies to remove barriers imposed by geography, time, culture, language or disability;
- ▶ To support faculty in the design of quality online learning instructional practices;
- ▶ To improve online teaching, learning, and the online education program at NPU;
- ▶ To enhance the university's student-centered curriculum;
- ▶ To investigate non-traditional modes of instructional delivery available to students;
- ▶ To present a larger range of courses through various modes of instructional alternative delivery.