

From Teacher to Facilitator

5 Roles of the Online Instructor



eLearning designer – Instructors must reconceptualize courses and redesign them for the online world.



Technology specialist – Instructors must be familiar with the tools of eLearning and be able to explain them to their students.



Content coach – Moving away from the traditional lecture format, instructors become coaches and mentors helping facilitate student learning at both the classroom and individual levels.



Social director – In a traditional classroom setting, instructors and students follow traditional communication norms. In the online world, instructors must purposefully facilitate communication with and among the community of learners through various means: email, chat rooms, discussion forums, polls, video, and more.



Managing correspondent – As online learning requires students to do significant independent reading and writing, instructors must play the role of managing correspondence to ensure material is manageable and understandable, and they must invest significant time in providing feedback, responding to student questions, and offering tips, tricks, and words of encouragement.¹

¹ <http://blog.online.colostate.edu/blog/online-teaching/redefining-teaching-the-five-roles-of-the-online-instructor/>

About D2L

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