

Advancing Your Online Course Design Practices

The *Augusta University Online Education – Changing Courses to Change Lives* project offers the *Online Course Design Institute* to support faculty in ensuring their online courses have address the *Online Course Design Characteristics* (OCDC). These Characteristics were developed by the project's faculty and staff Advisory Group (AUOE AG) with members from almost every college/school and appropriate service units.



The first offering of the *Online Course Design Institute* will occur in the summer of 2026 as pilot. This schedule is shared below as an example of the timing of experiences across the offering.

This comprehensive faculty development opportunity consists of the three periods described below.

Exploring the OCDC

Review an existing online course using the *Design Characteristics* (2 weeks self-paced; ~ 4 hours)

Dates: May 16th - May 30th 2026

Venue: D2L Brightspace Course + Community for Teaching and Learning (CLT)

- Which course do I want to refresh?
 - What are the OCDC?
 - Which OCDC does my course already have?
 - How do the OTC align with SACSACOC and federal requirements?
 - How can I use AI in my course refresh?
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- Explore the OCDC and Resources
 - Self review of current course using the OCDC Online Course Review process

Planning and Applying OCDC

Develop a course refresh design plan (3 weeks w/ 2 synchronous sessions/week with asynchronous activities: ~ 17 hours)

Dates: June 1st - June 21st 2026

Venue: D2L Brightspace Course + Zoom + Community for Teaching and Learning (CLT)

- How do I ensure my course has the OCDC?
 - What will make my course refresh the most efficient?
 - How do I implement the new characteristics in my D2L course shell?
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- Draft a course refresh plan for the first two weeks of your course
 - Self review of current course using the OCDC Online Course Review

Implementing the OCDC

Translate the design plan into a refreshed course (Mid-Point Review and Full Review; 4 synchronous hours + development time)

Due Date: Must be completed by October 31st 2026

Venue: D2L Course Brightspace Course + Zoom or Teams + Community for Teaching and Learning (CLT)

- How can I...?
 - What do my students think?
 - What did I learn from engaging in this OCDC course refresh?
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- Self and facilitator reviews of the refreshed course using the OCDC Online Course Review