Teaching Effectively Online (TEO) Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect for workload?
Past TEO participants have indicated that they spent about 5 - 7 hours per week completing the readings, assignments, and engaging in discussion with colleagues. Some TEO assignments (particularly during Week 3) ask you to explore resources on the web and sample online courses. Some faculty choose to "go deep" with these assignments, and as a result spend more time exploring.

Can I complete the work whenever I want?
While you have the flexibility as to what time during the day to complete your work, there are assignment due dates and timeframes for online discussions each week. Throughout TEO we will be modeling research-based best practices for online course design and teaching. Keeping students on track with due dates ensures that they do not fall behind and encourages "critical mass" needed for rich online discussions.

We anticipate that you will need to login into TEO at least 3 times per week. Please plan to login every Monday to review the weekly assignments and make note of deadlines.

What If I need to meet with the TEO instructor?
We are only a phone call (or email) away. If you'd like to meet "face-to-face" with TEO instructors, you can do so at any time.

Will I become a Bb expert by participating in TEO?
You will definitely become more familiar with Bb from a student perspective, but probably not an expert. TEO's focuses on course design and pedagogy, not the nuts and bolts of Blackboard's instructor tools. We will, however, provide individualized, hands-on support whenever the time is right for you.

What type of interaction can I expect with my colleagues?
TEO is designed for peer-to-peer dialogue and feedback. There are assignments that are discussion based and opportunities for you to give and receive feedback on course elements and structure.

What type of support is available after TEO?
You are likely to have creative ideas about how to design and teach online after TEO is over. We are happy to continue to support you one-on-one throughout the course design process and the semester in which you are teaching. Other support programs include the Center for Teaching and Learning's "Open Hours" drop-in, phone, and email technical support and UVM's Tech Team.