

Research Summary Teachers Discovering Computers – Integrating Technology and Digital Media

The Teachers Discovering Computers (TDC) – Integrating Technology and Digital Media course is a comprehensive and graded 8-week online graduate level course for K-12 teachers and administrators. More than **12,000 in-service teachers and K-12 administrators from 12 states** have taken TDC with a **94% completion rate**.

TDC participants choose either a **graduate credit** or a **continuing education** track. Participants complete weekly assignments and interact weekly with their instructors. The most unique aspect of the TDC course is that **each participant learns how to integrate technology into his or her specific classroom curriculum or administrative area**. Thus, a principal, an elementary school teacher, a middle school science teacher, and a high school math teacher in the same class actually engage in completely different learning tracks and instructor interaction. We accomplish this unique aspect by constantly allowing educators to choose the course content that they interact with. TDC meets the National Education Technology Standards for Teachers (NET-S), and national Technology Standards for School Administrators (TSSA), and is tied to state content standards and benchmarks.

Specific course objectives for educators include, but are not limited to the following:

- Learning to develop technology-based student centered lessons
- Learning methods and strategies necessary to transition to becoming facilitators of learning
- Developing an in-depth appreciation of the potential power of the World Wide Web to revolutionize teaching and learning
- Increase their computer literacy, information literacy, and integration literacy skills
- Developing the ability to integrate technology across the curriculum based upon best practices
- Increasing their understanding of computers, networking, and the Internet as they relate to K-12 education
- Understanding the important components of evaluating Web sites and software applications
- Understanding security issues, copyright, and ethics of using technology and the Internet in both K-12 and higher education

Participants are asked to complete both a pretest and posttest questionnaire. These research findings consist of the following:

1) Statistical analysis of one group of 374 teachers and administrators from three county school districts in Georgia (representing 90 schools) that completed TDC. These statistical analyses were conducted by researchers from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida and verified by researchers from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in Atlanta, Georgia. Similar statistical analysis has been completed on all students that have completed TDC, including teachers administrators, university and adult education faculty, and pre-service teachers, and to date all statistical analyses have been statistically significant.

2) Student Responses (unedited) to five open-ended questions that are part of the posttest questionnaire and submitted by inservice teachers and K-12 administrators.