



## The Institute for Learning and Teaching

The Institute for Learning and Teaching | 801 Oval Drive | Fort Collins, CO 80523-1052 | (970) 491-2032 | <http://tilt.colostate.edu>

### Graduate Teaching Certificate Program

## Workshop/Seminar Review Form

Date: February 5, 2010

Workshop/Seminar Title: MTI | College of Agricultural Sciences Noon Workshop: Distance Education - To Be or Not to Be

Presenter/Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Irlbeck/Associate Dean

Attendee's Name: Kristen Morris

**1. Explain the central topic and purpose of the workshop/seminar. What are the presenter/facilitator's goals for this workshop?**

The focus of this seminar was to share and promote the trend of Distance Learning within the CSU campus. The goal of this workshop was to provide an overview and history of distance learning. This workshop is part of a three-part series, including a panel discussion on distance education.

**2. What information in the workshop/seminar was most valuable to you?**

I found the entire workshop incredibly valuable. Before I came to graduate school, I was working in the apparel industry and I had considered taking distance education courses instead of traditional resident instruction courses because they fit into my schedule. I was intrigued to see the administrative decision-making aspect of distance education. Specifically, I am interested in the idea of taking courses from the Department of Design and Merchandising and offering an online alternative.

**3. How will you connect that information to your own pedagogical endeavors?**

I would love to conduct online courses for not only students who are in a similar situation as I was, but also have the option to bring international students into the CSU experience. Last semester I taught Introduction to Apparel Design. The course consisted of two extensive lab sessions where the students built a sketching and sewing portfolio and an online component comprised of lectures and readings, for which the students were also responsible. In my experience with this course, a distance learning course alternative could be an option. The lectures could become 100% online with regular discussion postings and online quizzes via Blackboard/RamCT. The lab sessions would be slightly more complicated transitioning from demo-based hands on learning to the digital environment. One idea is to develop 'kits' which could be sent to the students for each project. A sequential evaluation process could be implemented for apparel construction projects, for example, digital images could be submitted at specific intervals in the sewing process, and the final project mailed to the instructor for review. Overall the transition for lab-oriented courses would be more challenging, but with some creativity could be attainable.

**4. After attending this workshop/seminar, what additional information would you like to seek about this subject?**

The question of how to teach a class online that requires a lab session is still a challenge. I would love to see a workshop specifically on this topic! Specifically for apparel studio projects, how to you ensure academic integrity? And how can you create the same collaborative environment and sense of community evident in design studios?