

“Is there a Right Way to Teach Online?”

Jennifer Thompson

University of Maryland University College

In recent years, many schools have moved to online learning more out of financial concerns than of considerations of how well students learn. Caught up in this movement are the teachers of online courses. Is there a “right” way to teach online? Does such a thing exist? This interactive session will focus on common challenges that the teachers of online courses must address. We will discuss evidence-informed recommended practices that are key to the success of any online endeavor. Participants are invited to discuss how online teaching is implemented in their educational context. In addition to the details of creating an online classroom, we will spend time discussing why online education is an increasingly important resource for students. Participants will walk away from the session with a better understanding of the role and implementation of online learning.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Jennifer Thompson is Program Chair and Collegiate Professor in the Department of Psychology at University of Maryland University College. Jennifer has been with UMUC for over 14 years. Prior to teaching at UMUC, she completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Voice, Speech, and Language Section of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health. Her research focused on functional imaging studies of language in patients with Parkinson's disease and patients with Cochlear Implant devices as well as studies on text comprehension. Jennifer is the past co-chair of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education and is currently the Program Chair for Applied Psychology for the Eastern Psychological Association. Jennifer received her B.A. in Psychology and American History from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and received both her M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from American University in Washington, DC with a concentration in cognitive and experimental psychology. She served on APA's Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education, the Steering Committee for the Summit for the National Assessment of Psychology (SNAP), is co-editor of Project Assessment, and is currently on the Steering Committee for APA's Introductory Psychology Initiative.