Distance Learning Committee (DLC)

Report to Academic Senate

May 18, 2023

In Support of Continued Resources for Students in the Online Learning Environment

As we return to "normal" after the disruptions of the pandemic, the Distance Learning Committee (DLC) recognizes that many Mt. SAC students experience a technological and training divide that hinders their ability to learn online ("Spring 2020 Loaner Technology Report").

The 2021 CCCO report*, Student Centered Action and Response: Course Section Offerings and Plans for Future Instruction*, noted that more than half of 400 surveyed students of diverse ages, races and backgrounds stated that they would prefer both online and in-person instruction due to the "convenience and independence that online instruction provided, specifically as it relates to fitting into work schedules" ("California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office," 2021, p. 11). A working paper from the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Florida suggests that "Black, Hispanic and low-income community college students who take some, but not all, of their courses online increase their likelihood of completing an associate or bachelor's degree" (D'Agostino, 2022, para. 2). A recent Pew Research Center Survey reported that 40% of adults with lower incomes do not have broadband services or a laptop or desktop computer, and 24% of low-income homes do not own a smartphone. (Vogel, 2021).

The DLC advocates that Mt. SAC continue student resources such as the Laptop Loaner program, hot spots, and campus Wi-Fi access so that students have the technology access they need to succeed in their online courses. The DLC recommends that there is sustained upkeep for the Mountie Student Hub and continued support for Canvasadors, in which students mentor students on Canvas skills, so that students receive the resources and support they need to succeed in their online courses.

Mt. SAC has numerous support options that students can access. The DLC recommends that faculty include a Technology Resource section in their syllabus and online course orientation. The DLC is creating a sample Technology Page which will be provided to Distance Learning Faculty.

References

1.   D'Agostino, S. (2022, August 31). *Completion boost for 2-year students who take (some) online classes*. Inside Higher Ed. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/09/01/study-links-completion-gains-taking-some-online-courses
2.   California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. (2021). *Student centered action and response: Course section offerings and plans for future instruction.* https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED616999.pdf
3.   Mt. San Antonio College. (2020). *Spring 2020 loaner technology report.* https://www.mtsac.edu/research/research_docs/Spring_2020_Loaner_Technology_Report.pdf
4.   Vogel, E. (2021, June 22). *Digital divide persists even as Americans with lower incomes make gains in tech adoption*. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2021/06/22/digital-divide-persists-even-as-americans-with-lower-incomes-make-gains-in-tech-

adoption/#:~:text=Digital%20divide%20persists%20even%20as,make%20gains%20in%20tech%20adoption&text=More%20than%2030%20years%20after,are%20less%20well%2Doff%20financially.

SPOT Recertification FAQs

Of 873 SPOT-certified faculty, **21** faculty have SPOT recertification due July 31, 2023.
- ➢ If you are SPOT certified, ***do not sign up for SPOT again!!!*** Recertification *is not* redoing SPOT.
- ➢ For a description of the SPOT recertification process, read the SPOT Recertification webpage.

How do I know when my recertification is due?

You can find your recertification (SPOT Expires On) date by going to SPOT Certified Faculty. (If this page link doesn't work, google SPOT certified faculty mtsac.)

Your recertification due date is every four years from the year you were first SPOT certified. You must complete four ***approved*** continuing education hours by your recertification due date. One of those hours must be Regulations Update for SPOT Recertification. Recertification evidence is due July 31.

How can I find a list of approved courses?

The SPOT Recertification webpage lists approved courses – click the accordion ***Approved Courses***. (If this page link doesn't work, google spot recertification mtsac.)

This list starts with approved @ONE courses, then lists self-paced courses through POD, then a list of synchronous courses that have been offered over the past four years.

My recertification is due soon and I haven't started. What do I do?

There is one synchronous session scheduled for June 2: Humanizing 2, Welcoming Students to Your Course. Sign up in the POD Calendar.

Otherwise, you'll need to take the self-paced options. Go to POD Connect and sign in. Under the Welcome banner, scroll to find **Featured Training**. The following are options for you as of May 2023.

- Regulations Update for SPOT Recertification (Online) (must take this one time; more than once every four years will not count)
- Aligning Your Online Course with Section D of the CVC Rubric: Laying the Foundation (Online)
- Canvas Accessibility Basics
- Easy & Engaging Videos in Canvas Studio, Part 1 (Online)
- Easy & Engaging Videos in Canvas Studio, Part 2 (Online)
- Honorlock Workshop
- Microsoft Word Accessibility Basics

All of these sessions are worth one hour of recertification credit.

Now that I have completed these sessions, does my certification status automatically update?

Sadly, **no**. You will have to submit evidence of completing these activities to an administrator, who will verify your attendance and update the code in Banner. Here is what you need to do:

1. To download evidence of attendance, go to your POD transcript.
    ➢ When in POD, click the round Transcript icon. The page will load with Active courses (ones that have not been logged into POD). Under Filter by Training Status, choose Completed. This is the section that you can download attendance certificates from.
    ➢ POD processes this section by hand. Allow 2-3 weeks for them to register your training as completed. If a training you took recently is Active, it will need to become Completed for you to download a certificate.
    ➢ Download your certificates. Just choose four hours' worth. Be sure you get the Regulations Update certificate.
    ➢ Contact pod@mtsac.edu with questions. Your transcript is part of HR and I do not have access to it!

2. Now, go back to the SPOT Recertification webpage and click **Approved Courses**. Scroll to the blue **Proceed to Submit Your SPOT Recertification**. Clicking that button will take you to a SmartSheet. Fill out the form and upload Certificates of Completion you downloaded from POD.

<p align="center">Now you are done!</p>

Nothing happens automatically here. Wait a few days before your SPOT Expires On date is updated.

Changes at the CVC (California Virtual Campus)

There are changes occurring to the CVC.
- Its focus will be on cross-enrollment – this means that students will be able to register and enroll in California community college classes across the system without needing to separately be admitted to the college.
- We are not sure where or what will ensue for @ONE, the training arm of the system. @ONE classes will run through summer.
- Other initiatives, like POCR, may or may not be reassigned.
- Technology management (STAC) will move to the Foundation for CCCs.

Respectfully submitted,
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