

Endorsement: **Inclusive Teaching in Higher Ed**

*The Ohio Professional Development Consortium invites faculty teaching at institutions of higher education across the state to engage in a series of workshops and events on the topic of inclusive teaching with the goal of earning an **Inclusive Teaching in Higher Education Endorsement**. This endorsement recognizes instructors who complete 9-12 hours of professional development and pursue implementation of evidence-based instructional strategies.*



What is a teaching endorsement?

A teaching endorsement is a mechanism for documenting faculty commitment to improving instruction in support of student achievement of learning outcomes and/or enhancement of the student learning experience.

The most effective instructors know that teaching effectively requires attention to the literature on scholarly teaching; however, it is often challenging to document and present this type of professional development to colleagues and academic leadership.

A teaching endorsement recognizes extended investigation into teaching practices. It is evidence of your exploration of strategies to improve or refine the way you teach.

Teaching endorsements can be included in instructor resumes and curriculum vita and/or in dossiers submitted for promotion or tenure as part of a teaching narrative.

Why should I focus on inclusive teaching?

College classrooms are one of the few places in an increasingly polarized world where students have to engage consistently with different perspectives. This environment can be an opportunity for transformative learning experiences that are directly correlated with motivation, engagement and achievement (Zumbrunn et al. 2014).

Many teachers, however, feel underprepared to foster meaningful discourse or support a diverse student body. Inclusive teaching describes the range of approaches to teaching that creates a context where all students feel valued and have equal access to learning.

What do I gain?

This endorsement will allow you to explore issues and tools for creating inclusive learning environments.

Participants completing this endorsement will:

- Define inclusive teaching.
- Discuss research on ways effective inclusive teaching strategies impact learning.
- Practice identifying opportunities and proactive measures for inclusive learning environments.
- Identify challenges and supports to inclusion within current courses.
- Plan specific inclusive strategies to apply in their own teaching.



Who is eligible for the OPDC Inclusive Teaching Endorsement?

Anyone currently teaching in higher education in the state of Ohio is eligible to participate in and earn the OPDC Inclusive Teaching Endorsement.

Fact Sheet: **OPDC Inclusive Teaching Endorsement**

How come I haven't heard of this before?

2020-21 is the pilot year for this endorsement. If you choose to participate, you will be among the first instructors to earn this particular endorsement.

What are the costs associated with this professional development?

There are no registration fees or costs associated with the endorsement workshops and sessions or the endorsement itself.

What do I have to do to earn the endorsement?

You should:

1. **Let us know you are interested** by filling out this [OPDC Inclusive Teaching in Higher Education Endorsement interest form](#).

2. **Select from, register for, and participate in at least six engagements** (about 9-12 hours of professional development) that have been identified as assisting teachers in meeting the outcomes of this endorsement. The experiences are designed and delivered by consortium partners and the most current slate of workshops and sessions may be found on the OPDC web page. Ensure that one of those sessions is a "showcase" session. "Showcase" sessions connect you with others pursuing this endorsement to share how you are implementing or plan to implement some of the strategies presented.

3. **Complete an endorsement activity reflection for each event attended.**

4. The six reflections will be reviewed and an endorsement certificate awarded. You have the option of selecting two individuals whom the OPDC will notify when you complete the endorsement.

Some of the events have already happened and recordings are on your web page. Can I still pursue the endorsement?

Definitely. Events are delivered synchronously, recorded, and available for viewing. You may participate asynchronously by viewing the workshop or session at a later time.

TIP: *Invite colleagues to view an event with you to benefit from the ability to share thoughts, ideas, and conversation. If eligible, your colleagues may also want to pursue the endorsement.*

Who reviews the reflections?

Currently, staff from the [Michael V. Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning](#) will review reflections and use this [rubric for evaluation](#). Don't worry, if your reflection does not align with the rubric, you will have the opportunity to revise the reflection. (We don't anticipate that happening often.)

What or who is the Ohio Professional Development Consortium?

The Ohio Professional Development Consortium comprises representatives from the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, the Inter-University Council, the Ohio Department of Higher Education and state colleges/universities. It was formed in the spring of 2020 to respond to the following:

- Increased demands on post-secondary instructors to teach remotely, in physically distanced f2f or hybrid/hyflex contexts, or online.
- Budgetary challenges experienced by many Ohio colleges and universities that impact breadth or depth of professional development offerings available to those who teach.
- Current and future enrollment trends that require instructors be equipped with instructional strategies that increase achievement of learning outcomes or enhance the learning experience of an increasingly diverse student population.
- Recognition of the excellent developing programming Ohio institutions provide to faculty and an ability to elevate teaching and learning across institutions through sharing of these opportunities.

I have more questions. Whom should I contact? I want my institutions/department chair to receive information, whom should I contact?

Any of the OPDC planning committee members are able to assist. A full membership listing is available in the FAQ about the consortium found [here](#).

You should also feel free to contact endorsement administrators, [Laura Cotton](#), program coordinator, or [Melinda Rhodes-DiSalvo](#), associate director for strategic partnerships and operations, with the Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning.