

Recommendation for Changes to SPOT
Approved by AS 12/03/09

Distance Learning Committee, 10/27/09

The Skills and Pedagogy for Online Teaching (SPOT) certification process was developed with Academic Senate approval in Fall 2004. At that time, faculty primarily taught their DL courses through the creation of course web pages that resided on the College’s elearn server. That process has now evolved to using authenticated processes through Blackboard or Course Studio. Many of the previously approved tasks in SPOT do not “match” with the current DL course delivery methods. Some tasks need to be modified, removed or added to maintain an appropriate baseline of technical knowledge and DL “best practices” pedagogy for online teaching.

#	Change	Rationale
1	Add “ Getting Started ” menu item to the navigation bar (which is a link to that content area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Helps faculty understand how to begin the SPOT process b) Is a good model for DL course design because it will help students get started in their DL course. c) Provides a pathway for a course orientation at the beginning of the term, which can help students to learn how to be successful in the DL course
2	Allow faculty to complete the POD “ Orientation to Certification to Online Teaching ” and “ Online Communication and Navigation ” workshops in an online mode at their convenience. (Salary advancement credit not guaranteed without approval from PDC)	At this time, faculty must attend a face-to-face workshop to begin the SPOT process. Not all faculty can attend at the time that the workshops are offered, thereby preventing them from starting or completing the process.
3	Remove or modify the tasks which conflict with automated, authenticated, accessible processes which Bb provides as a part of the course management system [ACC monitor tasks, username and passwords to enter course website, URL of course website, unauthenticated, graded participation outside of the Bb course, questions on SPOT Assessment Quiz.]	<p>Since AS has approved recommendations regarding required authentication of student participation in DL courses and moving SPOT process to a Bb environment, not all previous tasks fit the new environment.</p> <p>New models for authenticating student participation need to be a part of our core knowledge (pedagogy) for teaching DL courses.</p>
4	Add or modify some task information on DL “best practices”.	Some SPOT applicants are requesting more pedagogy information and examples as they progress through the SPOT process.
5	Change name from Tasks 1 and 2 to Modules 1 and 2	To clarify the difference between a task and a module – individual tasks are listed and defined within a Module
6	Modify Announcement tasks in Module 1 and Module 2	Tasks will make more sense because they fit in the Bb environment.
7	Include information on the College’s evaluation processes of DL faculty	There is new contract language regarding classroom visitation and student evaluations for DL faculty.