

1. What do you like most about online teaching?

I love teaching online because it gives students opportunities they might not have otherwise. For example, students who are hesitant or uncomfortable talking in a traditional face-to-face classroom feel more at ease commenting in an online course. In addition, the online discussions guarantee that every student in the class participates and has his voice heard.

I also love the sense of community that develops between my online students. In some ways, the community is supportive and encouraging than in a face-to-face setting.

2. What have been some of the challenges?

I find technological/online literacy to be one of my biggest challenges. Sometimes students need more technological help than anything else.

3. What are you doing/doing differently that makes your course interesting or unique?

I try to make my course content mirror my traditional class as much as possible. I want my students online to have the same experience as the classroom. I accomplish this through presentations I have created through Camtasia and video lectures. Traditionally online courses were too reading-heavy. I try to find a balance between reading, hands-on learning and lectures—just like in my face-to-face classroom.

4. What would you say to a student who is considering online learning?

Try it! My students online support and encourage each other throughout the semester. They get to know each other better than in traditional classrooms. If you are motivated and disciplined, you can succeed online. Additionally, for students with demanding schedules, online learning can alleviate some of the stress of finding time to attend college.

5. What would you say to a colleague who is considering redeveloping a course for the online platform?

The best thing about online teaching is you can take the presentations you create or use online to “flip” your face-to-face classroom. There is no downside!