

Qualifications for Online Teachers

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) does not issue a certificate for online teaching. When hiring teachers for online student courses (facilitators), MSDE requires that candidates meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Have valid, current Maryland certification for the content they are to teach and at least two (2) years of satisfactory experience teaching it (or comparable expertise and experience teaching the content at the post-secondary level);
- Satisfactory completion of a three-credit online facilitation course from an accredited institution (MSDE's online course *Online Teaching in Maryland* or a similar course from an institution of higher education, or an approved school system CPD course, etc.); and
- Satisfactory completion of a shadowing or co-teaching experience with an experienced facilitator.

Due to budgetary and staffing constraints, MSDE no longer hires facilitators for online student courses. This responsibility now rests with local school systems (LSSs). MSDE strongly encourages local school systems to follow the above guidelines to help ensure quality instruction for their online students.

MSDE continues to offer online professional development (OPD) courses for teachers across the state. OPD facilitators hired by MSDE must meet the three criteria listed above. Many LSSs also offer OPD courses and MSDE encourages them to apply the same criteria when hiring facilitators for these courses.

Individuals interested in taking MSDE's online course *Online Teaching in Maryland* can find it in the e-Learning for Educators online course schedule at:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/instruction/prof_standards.htm.