Computer Literacy Initiative

Weber State University

Purpose: *To ensure all students achieve the computational literacy necessary to succeed in university coursework, academic research, and the workplace of the future.*

Overview: The ongoing, rapid evolution in computer devices and applications requires university instruction in the area of computer literacy to be especially responsive to meet the needs of students and faculty. The proposed Computer Literacy Initiative (CLI) will serve the following members of the Weber State University (WSU) community:

Students: Entering and continuing WSU students possess widely varying levels of experience and knowledge about computer applications and operation. Both non-traditional students and those students caught on the wrong side of the "digital divide" are confronted with software technology challenges at the very beginning of their university careers. The CLI is intended to support students from all backgrounds to attain levels of computer competency appropriate to their specific academic needs. The CLI will also offer instructional support on advanced topics to prepare students for upper division courses and research investigations.

Faculty: Courses offered by various university departments and programs require students to demonstrate specific computer application skillsets. In almost all cases, this pre-requisite knowledge is a vital and necessary condition for student success in the course. If students are not adequately prepared, the faculty is often tasked with finding ways to assist the student in becoming current with the required technology. The CLI represents a key resource to ensure student competency in computer applications specifically defined by faculty to support courses instructed by faculty.

Operation: The CLI will welcome all students and offer instructional support related to computer literacy. The CLI will manage the production and catalog of online, interactive short-courses hosted primarily by the university Canvas LMS, which ensures that students will have a consistent educational experience. University faculty will be the principal subject matter experts for these customized Canvas courses. Both online and tutorial instruction will be responsive and targeted to the specific needs of the student and faculty course requirements. The CLI will manage assessment and certification records of student competencies, and will continue to offer current computer literacy courses NTM 1700/NTM 1701-3 and exams NTM 1501-4. Tutorial support will be provided primarily by university students. Initially, the CLI will have a full-time dedicated staff member to administer center operations.

Location: As part of the School of Computing in the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology (EAST), the CLI will be located on the third floor of Elizabeth Hall (Room EH 311).