# Office of Distance Education

Annual Report 2025

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
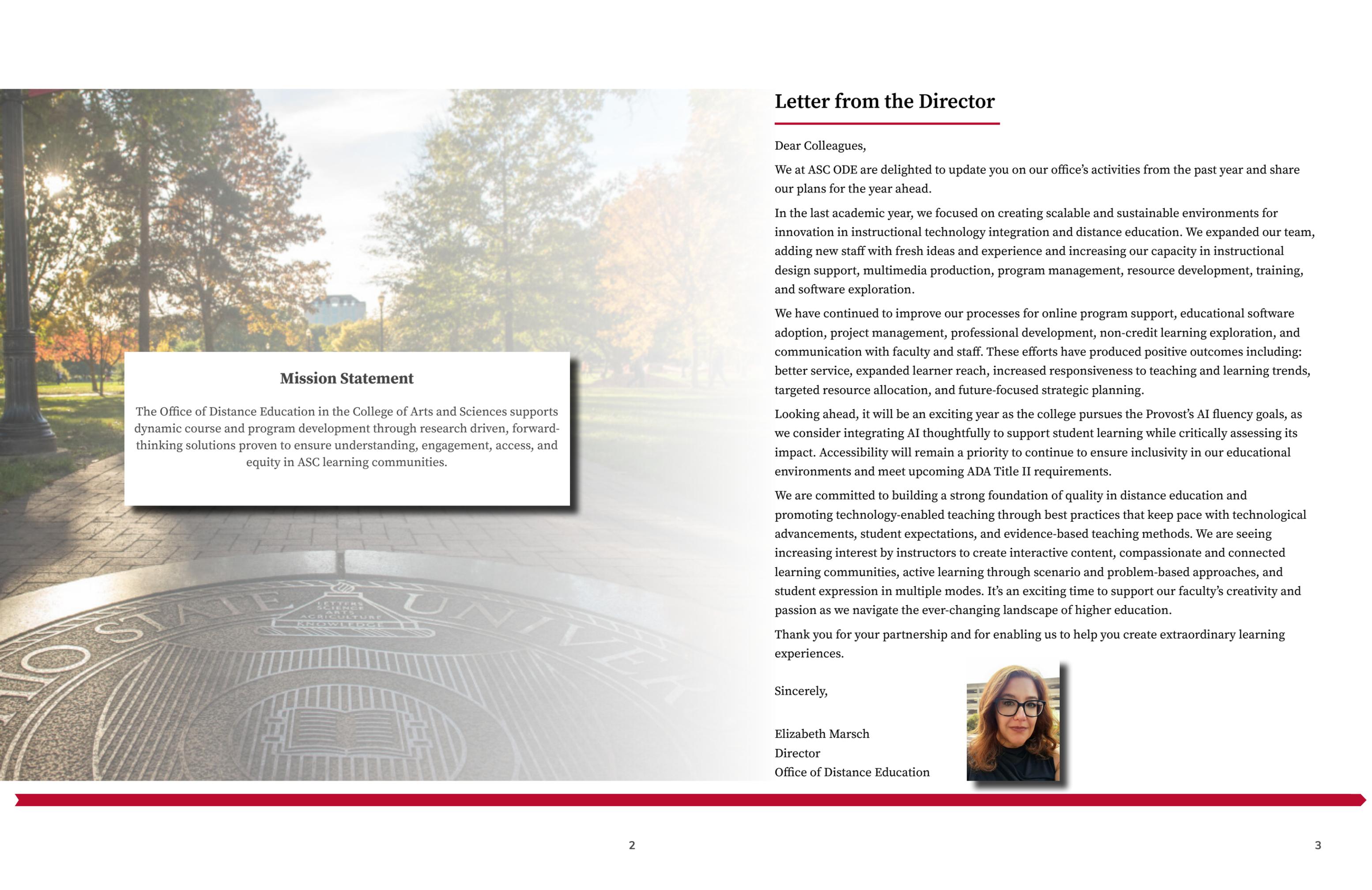
Mission Statement

The Office of Distance Education in the College of Arts and Sciences supports dynamic course and program development through research driven, forward-thinking solutions proven to ensure understanding, engagement, access, and equity in ASC learning communities.

Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

We at ASC ODE are delighted to update you on our office's activities from the past year and share our plans for the year ahead.

In the last academic year, we focused on creating scalable and sustainable environments for innovation in instructional technology integration and distance education. We expanded our team, adding new staff with fresh ideas and experience and increasing our capacity in instructional design support, multimedia production, program management, resource development, training, and software exploration.

We have continued to improve our processes for online program support, educational software adoption, project management, professional development, non-credit learning exploration, and communication with faculty and staff. These efforts have produced positive outcomes including: better service, expanded learner reach, increased responsiveness to teaching and learning trends, targeted resource allocation, and future-focused strategic planning.

Looking ahead, it will be an exciting year as the college pursues the Provost's AI fluency goals, as we consider integrating AI thoughtfully to support student learning while critically assessing its impact. Accessibility will remain a priority to continue to ensure inclusivity in our educational environments and meet upcoming ADA Title II requirements.

We are committed to building a strong foundation of quality in distance education and promoting technology-enabled teaching through best practices that keep pace with technological advancements, student expectations, and evidence-based teaching methods. We are seeing increasing interest by instructors to create interactive content, compassionate and connected learning communities, active learning through scenario and problem-based approaches, and student expression in multiple modes. It's an exciting time to support our faculty's creativity and passion as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of higher education.

Thank you for your partnership and for enabling us to help you create extraordinary learning experiences.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Marsch
Director
Office of Distance Education

Office of Distance Education Directory

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Strategic Plan

In summer 2024, the Office of Distance Education (ODE) completed a comprehensive strategic plan to guide its continued growth and align its efforts with the College's broader priorities. The core mission of ODE is to cultivate excellence in teaching and operational effectiveness through leadership in distance education and technology-enhanced learning.

ODE's operations are organized around two primary objectives:

1. Establishing a stable and sustainable support system for faculty utilizing digital learning tools and distance education strategies to improve student learning outcomes.
2. Advancing innovation and strategic initiatives that leverage distance education to develop new programs and special projects.

These objectives support ODE's dual role: providing high-quality support services for the College of Arts and Sciences while fostering a culture of innovation and strategic engagement across the university and in higher education more generally.

Through its sustained commitment to faculty, staff, and students, as well as its leadership in cross-unit collaboration and strategic initiatives, ODE plays a vital role in advancing the College's Strategic Plan. Since its establishment in November 2020, the Office has experienced rapid growth, driven by increased demand for services and the strength of its support model, reputation, and alignment with evolving community needs.

Together, these efforts ensure ODE remains a responsive, strategic, and forward-looking partner in the College's academic mission.

Looking to the year ahead, ODE is prioritizing:

- Growth of our learning communities and the enhanced dissemination of helpful information and resources to respond to the rapidly changing technological and pedagogical environments in which we teach and learn
- Expansion of instructional design support services, including instructional multimedia production
- Streamlined and comprehensive educational toolset management, including exploration and adoption of new technologies to enhance teaching and learning in ASC
- Enhanced support for online program management and growth initiatives as well as program design and development
- More guidance, support, and championing faculty efforts around innovation in teaching and learning with AI
- Enhanced guidance, support, and recognition for ensuring accessibility needs for all students are met
- Increased engagement with faculty and staff leading technology-enabled teaching and learning efforts in their home departments
- Collaboration and information-sharing with offices devoted to similar efforts across the college, university, and our growing cross-institutional network

Strategic Goals Achieved during 2024-2025

- 629 Arts and Sciences courses now approved to be taught in online format

- 31,397 student seats resulting in 94,384 credit hours generated through quality-assured DL, DH, and HY classes in FY25 that set the standard for distance education at OSU

- Increased capacity within the GE by supporting the creation of new DL GE courses through the Guided Course Creation program as well as consultations with faculty wishing to scale seat capacity in existing courses

- Cross-campus Virtual Collaborative Program expansion occurring with 28 DL courses included in AY 24-25 and 189 regional campus students enrolled in those courses

- Proposal for online Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies written and circulating, concurrence from departments granted and arrangements with OSO started

- 7 new online non-credit, revenue generating courses launched in Scarlet Canvas

- All non-credit courses transitioned from ScarletCatalog to new, more user-friendly registration platform DestinyOne in partnership with Ohio State Online Professional and Continuing Education team

- Implementation and refinement of new educational software adoption and tracking process

- Transitioned to new partnership model with Ohio State Online's marketing, recruitment, and re-enrollment teams

- Launched new ASC Teaching with Technology Learning Community

Staff Growth:

- Distance Education Consultant hired to more closely attend to online program management through regular cross-functional team meetings as well as enhance strategy consultancy for distance education initiatives

- Lead instructional designer hired to manage instructional design team and project manage ongoing instructional design projects

- Instructional Media Production Specialist hired to accommodate existing and growing needs in instructional video, image, and audio course content

- Expansion of and enhanced onboarding and professional development for instructional design team; implementation of in-office career growth model

- Addition of an Instructional Designer to support Unite to Read Project Mellon grant and other Arts and Humanities grants efforts

By The Numbers

The Office of Distance Education is proud to support the College of Arts and Sciences distance learning initiatives and programs across all 38 departments, centers, and support units. Our efforts are complex and interconnected in order to comprehensively support faculty professional development, accelerate student success, facilitate innovation in teaching and learning, and foster an inclusive community on campus and in our virtual learning spaces.

ODE's administrative and support efforts include instructional design consulations with instructors, the creation and promulgation of distance education professional development resources, learning toolset management, curricular development, review and assessment, and pursuit of special projects and outreach efforts. This multi-pronged approach to learning support, innovation, and administration is carefully designed to be responsive to current needs, leverage the vast potential of distance learning and technology-enabled teaching, and anticipate paths forward for future growth and sustainability.

We are pleased to present these figures which highlight the impact and accomplishments of our support and initiatives throughout and culminating in the 2024-2025 academic year.

During 2024-2025

99%
Increase in Website Visitors Viewing our Faculty Resources

189
Regional Campus Students Enrolled in ASC DL Courses Through CVC

51
Instructional Design Projects

32
Course Support Requests Completed

40
Software and Web Tools Requests Completed

16
New Learning Tools Processed and Approved

41
Distance Learning Course Proposals Reviewed and Approved

30
Non-Credit Online Scarlet Courses Managed

Since 2021

136
Instructional Design Projects

629
Total Approved Online Courses Now Offered by ASC

256
Total DL Course Proposals Reviewed Since 2021

117
Course Support Requests Provided

Instructional Design Support

The ASC Office of Distance Education welcomes instructional design consultations and support requests from our colleagues throughout the College of Arts and Sciences to support the teaching mission. We strive to develop engaging, accessible, and effective learning experiences for students, while also providing vital professional development opportunities for faculty and associate faculty instructors.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the ODE instructional design team support ranged from identifying instructional solutions to specific online instructional design and delivery challenges described by the instructor, to full course redesigns and ongoing pedagogical and technical support throughout each semester. In early 2025, ODE added to its team a **Manager of Electronic Learning Development** who now oversees the design and multimedia team, which is further enhancing the office's ability to support the service provided to instructors and improve student learning outcomes and scale to be responsive to increasing demand.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the instructional team worked on **51** instructional design projects and provided **32** individual consultations and support related to technology enhanced teaching. Feedback regarding ODE's instructional design support continues to be extremely favorable. Of all surveys completed, **100% of respondents** said they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the support received and two sample quotes from faculty based on their experience are below.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with you. I am grateful for your help on this project, as I do not have the expertise to do this work."

"I had a great experience with ODE, questions and emails were always answered thoroughly!"

Guided Course Creation Program

The Office of Distance Education opened the Guided Course Creation Program to enrollees in 2023. This self-paced, asynchronous course with active support of our Instructional Designers, provides an opportunity for instructors to develop a general education course for DL or DH offering. Upon completion, instructors have a syllabus and all other course proposal documents as well as a significant start on Carmen design of content and assignments in preparation to submit for ASCC approval.

During 2024-2025, ten instructors enrolled in the program for a total of **61** since it began in 2023. The Guided Course Creation Program is being revised during the summer of 2025, to incorporate additional training on asynchronous course delivery and other timely enhancements.

Teaching & Learning

The Office of Distance Education supports instructors and faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences as they pursue new and innovative ways of teaching, including identifying educational technology tools that align with Ohio States high standards for accessibility, security, privacy, sustainability, and affordability.

In the summer of 2024, an **Electronic Learning Development Senior Specialist** was hired to manage the vetting of these tools and to coordinate the reviews for security, accessibility, and contractual terms. Additionally, this new team member provides support and guidance to instructors on the various leading technologies available, including how to use the teaching and learning toolset to effectively meet the learning objectives for their courses.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, our office received over **40** requests for assistance with software and web tools and managed the approval or renewal process for **16** new teaching and learning tools.
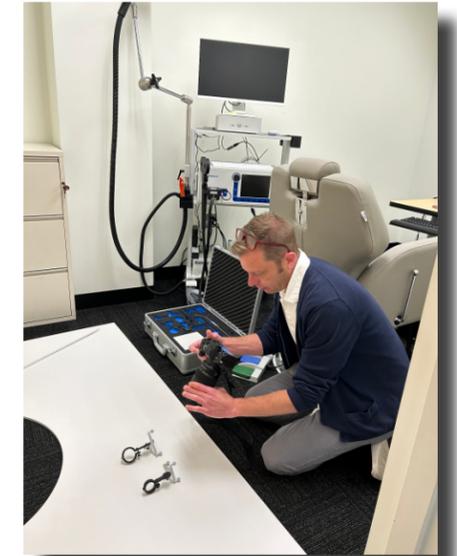
Multimedia Specialist

In the spring of 2025, the Office of Distance Education hired a **Multimedia Specialist** to support multimedia requests for ASC courses. Our multimedia specialist joins ODE to support instructional goals like increased engagement, interactivity, and multimodal learning through podcast and instructional video production, virtual site tours, software recordings that facilitate complex technical trainings, video for case-based simulations and scenario-based learning, 3D imaging, immersive and AR experiences, and more. Matt is available for consultations via the ODE Consultation Request form.
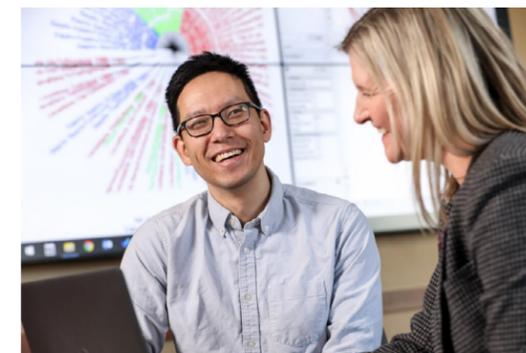
Online Program Development & Support

The ASC Office of Distance Education continues to collaborate with college departments, centers, and faculty to support the development and delivery of online degrees, for-credit certificate programs, and non-credit offerings. The office also helps manage relationships with key university and college stakeholders involved in these programs, including the Office of Academic Affairs, Ohio State Online (OSO), ASC Marketing and Communications, and ASC Technology Services.

Current Degrees and Certificate Programs

The ASC Office of Distance Education (ODE) provides strategic support to the college's two online master's degree programs and three credit-bearing certificate programs. ODE offers college-level guidance to program faculty and staff to ensure cohesion and consistency in the leadership and management of distance education initiatives.

Ohio State Online
Our office serves as the primary liaison between the college and Ohio State Online (OSO), fostering collaboration and ensuring alignment between our online programs and university-wide initiatives. We support new program planning, participate in cross-functional meetings with OSO and program teams, track enrollment, coordinate with OSO and ASC Marketing and Communications, and help manage course development schedules with faculty teaching in our online programs.

Program Support
In September 2024, a **Distance Education Program Consultant** was hired to strengthen the college's support structure for online programs. This role is responsible for managing relationships and providing dedicated support to both the academic units and Ohio State Online on behalf of the college. The consultant supports programs with marketing strategy formulation, hosting program information sessions, and developing promotional materials, while ODE continues to provide instructional design support.

By late 2024, all of the college's credit-bearing online programs had transitioned to Ohio State Online's new partnership model. This enhanced model offers integrated, cross-functional support including marketing, recruitment, reenrollment support for students, and instructional design, to expand the reach and improve the quality of Ohio State's online offerings.

New Program Development

Each year, the Office of Distance Education (ODE) supports departments and centers in developing new online programs. This includes offering strategic guidance to ensure alignment with college priorities and providing hands-on assistance with proposal development and navigating the approval process.

In the 2025 academic year, ODE supported the creation of two for-credit certificate programs, *ASL Elementary-Level Teaching* and *Foundations in Technical Communication*, both slated to launch in Spring 2026. The office also continues to assist in the development of a planned Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies.
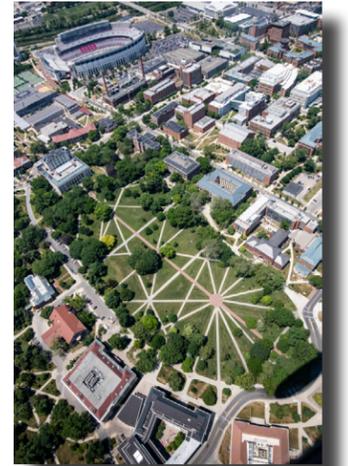
Non-Credit Programs

The Arts and Sciences Office of Distance Education (ODE) continues to support college units and faculty in developing and delivering high-quality non-credit online learning opportunities. Currently, ODE manages a portfolio of over **30** non-credit courses, summer camps and institutes, and certificate programs available through the ScarletCanvas platform. These offerings serve a diverse range of learners and support lifelong learning across disciplines. ODE will continue to offer these free and for-fee courses.

In Spring 2025, the university introduced a new model for non-credit programming that leverages a strategic partnership with Ohio State Online. As part of this initiative, a new delivery platform, DestinyOne, was launched to streamline enrollment, expand access, and enhance the learner experience. ODE is actively collaborating with Ohio State Online and university partners to ensure a smooth transition for existing programs and to explore opportunities for future growth.

In addition to managing current offerings, ODE provides ongoing consultation and support for departments and faculty interested in launching new non-credit programs, courses, and other workforce development initiatives. This includes guidance on instructional design, program development, and platform integration, ensuring that new initiatives align with institutional goals and meet the needs of adult and professional learners.

Course Support

The ASC Office of Distance Education (ODE) continues to collaborate with departments, centers, and instructors across the college to support the development and delivery of online courses. ODE provides guidance on the procedures and best practices required for curricular approval when converting courses to an online format. ODE also manages the distance learning review of online course proposals, oversees programs and initiatives related to ASC's online offerings, facilitates teaching forums for instructors to share and learn best practices, and develops resources and templates to support effective online teaching.

Distance Learning Course Reviews

The Office of Distance Education supports the development of new online courses through the Distance Learning Course Review process. Departments and instructors submit to ODE a course syllabus and the ODE Cover Sheet to revise an existing course for online delivery. ODE reviews these materials and provides feedback to the instructor, recommending improvements or revisions to the syllabus and cover sheet. Once finalized, departments submit the revised documentation to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (ASCC) for curricular approval. ODE continues to support the process by serving in an advisory capacity during ASCC panel reviews.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, ODE reviewed and completed **41** course proposals. Since the process began in Autumn 2021, ODE has reviewed a **total of 256 proposals.**

Teaching Forums

The Office of Distance Education facilitates Teaching Forums featuring panels of ASC instructors, staff, and other experts who discuss key topics related to distance education, including course design, instructional delivery, assessment, and more. These forums are conducted live online, recorded, and made available on the ODE website for broader access. Although the forums were paused during the 2024–2025 academic year, in lieu of these, ODE hosted asynchronous learning community on Teams for of-the-moment conversations and idea sharing. In previous years, ODE has hosted an average of five to six forums annually and they are scheduled to resume in the 2025-2026 academic year.
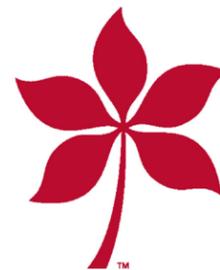
Course Sharing Programs

Cross-Campus Virtual Collaborative

The Cross-Campus Virtual Collaborative (CCVC) program launched in Autumn 2022 to provide regional campus students access to distance learning (DL) courses offered by the main campus, they would not otherwise be able to take. The ASC Office of Distance Education has continued to manage the program through both the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years.

During Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025, **189** regional campus students enrolled in **28** ASC-taught online courses offered through the CCVC. This represents a **122%** increase in student enrollment compared to the previous year's 85 students, and a **133%** increase in course offerings from 12 to 28 courses.

BTAA Courseshare Program

The BTAA Courseshare program allows degree-seeking students of member universities to take less commonly taught language and international special topic courses offered at other Big Ten Academic Alliance Institutions from a distance.
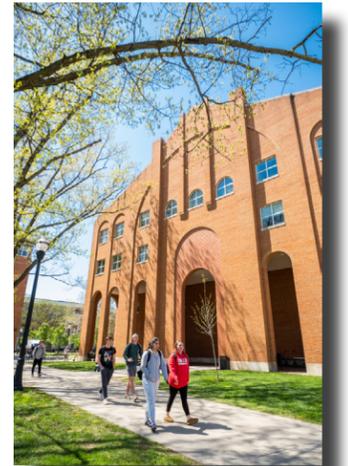
Teaching with Technology Advisory Group

In 2024, the Office of Distance Education announced the formation of the Teaching with Technology Advisory Group, a subset of the ASC's Teaching with Technology Learning Community, that is a space for instructors to explore, identify, and share how they integrate educational technology tools into their courses. The primary goal of the ASC's Teaching with Technology Learning Community is to assist and support faculty in meaningfully integrating technology into their instructional practices.

The Teaching with Technology Advisory Group establishes an avenue for faculty input for educational technology identification, selection, adoption, and use processes. While this committee may provide guidance and insight regarding education technology tools, numerous factors contribute to the decision to adopt a tool including but not limited to need, cost, student and instructor privacy, security, accessibility, terms and conditions, deployment requirements, and functionality. Individuals with all levels of educational technology expertise are encouraged to join the learning community.

Resources and Outreach

Teaching and Educational Resources

The ODE team continuously updates its website with a wide range of **distance education resources** and research to support instructors in developing and teaching online courses. These resources include instructional strategies, information on new tools including tutorials, syllabus and Carmen course templates, and effective methods for using CarmenCanvas.

Website engagement has grown significantly, doubling in size with a **99% increase** in unique visitors in academic year 2025 compared to 2024 (26,295 vs. 13,178). Notably, our Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Guidance webpage alone received **6,970 views**—a remarkable **2,462% increase** from the previous year's 272 views.

The team also curates and publishes **instructor spotlight videos** that highlight effective teaching strategies and innovations in online learning. In addition, the team researches emerging trends and best practices in distance education and publishes **articles** on our website to inform and engage the ASC community.

Sample ODE articles published in 2024-2025:

Alternatives to Proctoring Exams in Online Classes

The Office of Distance Education researched effective alternatives to traditional proctored exams and found that instead of relying on surveillance-based testing, educators at different institutions have implemented various alternative assessments that encourage more critical thinking, creativity and ethical considerations.

Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in Distance Education

This article provides guidance on standards for Regular, Substantive Interaction (RSI) within ASC distance learning courses, and a comparative overview of how other institutions interpret and implement U.S. Department of Education regulations. This page is the top search engine result on this topic.

Social Media & Community Engagement

The Office of Distance Education shares best practices and teaching resources through a quarterly **newsletter** reaching over 2,220 faculty, instructional designers, staff, and campus partners. With a strong average open rate of 43%, the newsletter serves as a vital platform for promoting community, sparking meaningful dialogue, and driving continuous improvement in online teaching and learning. Each issue highlights effective strategies, faculty insights, and relevant tools, the newsletter fosters a culture of collaboration and innovation across the Ohio State teaching community.

We also maintain an active and engaging presence on **social media**, where we spotlight innovative teaching approaches, celebrate student and faculty success stories, and share timely resources to support online learning. Beyond promoting our online programs, we use these channels to cultivate community through lighthearted, authentic interactions with Ohio State faculty, staff and students. Over the past year, we've published **107 posts on X** (formerly Twitter) and **97 on Facebook**, using these platforms to stay connected, responsive, and supportive of the student experience beyond the virtual classroom.

ODE Website Visitors - Top 5 Webpages

	AY24	AY25	
RSI Guidance	272	6,970	**2,462% increase**
Crafting Policy for AI	901	2,491	**176% increase**
ODE Homepage	1,082	2,967	**174% increase**
H5P Tool Creation	513	1,131	**120% increase**
Contract Grading	1,785	3,221	**80% increase**