

OPEN-NH Course Facilitator Training

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I get graduate credit for taking the facilitator training course?

Yes, you can apply for 3 graduate credits from Plymouth State University for learning how to be an online facilitator through this course.

Where do I get the training, and how much time will it take?

The training is delivered mostly online but it will begin with a face to face session at a location near you. You'll participate in a 10 week training course, followed by teaching a 7 week course. Plan to spend 4-6 hours each week on course assignments when you are going through the 10 week facilitator training.

How much time will it take to teach a course?

The only scheduled meetings occur at the beginning of an online course. You will need to meet with your students to ensure that everyone is comfortable with the online delivery system. This will be modeled at your face-to-face meeting as a student in the facilitator course.

Facilitating an online course can happen anytime, anywhere. So, if you're a night owl, work at midnight. If you're an early bird, work first thing in the morning. Online facilitating can adapt to your busy schedule. Online facilitating requires a fair amount of reading and reviewing participant work as well as responding in the online forum. Plan to spend 6-8 hours each week when you are teaching the 7 week course. Class sizes will be limited to the manageable size of 20 students.

If I agree to become a facilitator, what will that look like?

If you agree to become a facilitator, you will register to take an on-line, 10 week course that will prepare you to facilitate a workshop on the web. At the end of the 10 weeks, you will practice these skills by delivering a seven week workshop that has already been prepared. As you deliver this first workshop, you will work with an experienced mentor who will guide you and provide support for you. You will have anywhere from 8 to 20 participants from all across the state in your workshop.

Can I choose the course I facilitate?

You will have the opportunity to choose from 32 workshops that have been developed on a wide variety of topics, and it will be important to choose a workshop in an area in which you are comfortable. If you wish, you can partner with another facilitator (but you will have to share the \$1500 facilitator stipend). You will be expected to devote 6 to 8 hours a week to this activity, much of it from your own home. Once you become trained and have successfully delivered your initial workshop, you can be eligible to facilitate additional workshops throughout the year.

What does it cost?

There is no fee for taking and completing the online facilitator course. When participants have completed the facilitator training, they will teach a seven-week online course and receive a \$1500 stipend for their facilitation work.

What type of support will I have?

A face-to-face meeting to introduce you to the online system, class expectations, and the other learners in your class will launch the 10-week facilitators course. During this face-to-face meeting, you will have the opportunity to log into the online system and become familiar with the learning environment.

Throughout your training, you will have the support of the other learners in your course as well as the support of your training instructor. You will be able to share questions, strategies, challenges, and resources with your classmates and trained online specialists. Following the training period, you will have the opportunity to test your new skills by facilitating a seven-week online course.

Open-NH will provide ongoing support to those training to become online facilitators through each of the Educational Support Centers. If you have questions, contact a nearby Center.

Why should I take the facilitator training?

- 👉 Earn a \$1,500 stipend each time you teach a course.
- 👉 Additional stipends (\$100 per student) to be Instructor-of-Record are paid by Plymouth State for students who enroll in the course for graduate credit.
- 👉 You will become part of a Ready to Teach national initiative.
- 👉 OPEN-NH will provide press releases and notices to your superintendent and principal about your “online certified trainer” qualifications.
- 👉 Earn professional development hours, CEUs, or graduate credits (for taking the facilitators course but not for facilitating your own course).
- 👉 Discounts possible from PSU for taking additional courses - \$400 scholarship through PSU to take another eLearning course
- 👉 If you are a curriculum coordinators, you might want to facilitate courses to help develop a quality pool of teacher candidates from which to hire or work with. In other words, you will be home growing your own “experts.”
- 👉 Become involved in a professional learning community.
- 👉 Take advantage of an opportunity to learn about and experience online learning.
- 👉 Gain access to high quality courses and content experts.
- 👉 Participate in a statewide effort that nurtures “local celebrities.”