



Civics Education Today

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This is a professional development course to help educators understand how to build civics education into their class curriculum. First, participants will focus on the need for civics education including new research and laws about civics education. Second, participants will be able to identify how media and equity are important factors in civics education. Participants in this course will also be able to access resources leading to various student-centered approaches including civil discourse and civic learning in action. By the end of this course, participants will have a better understanding of civics education including resources and activities to apply in their own classrooms, as well as opportunities for young leaders to actively participate and engage in civics education.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in the need for civics education through current research and legislation, explores the roles of media and equity in shaping civics instruction, and offers practical, student-centered resources and strategies—including civil discourse and digital tools—to effectively engage students and connect them with real-world civic participation opportunities.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the need for civics education through data, research, and anecdotal evidence.
2. Identify ways local and state governments are promoting civics education through new legislation or recommendations.
3. Identify and describe recommendations and guidelines for building civics education curriculum and implementing them in the classroom.
4. Apply resources and activities into civics education curriculum and describe how to use these in the classroom, including digital tools.
5. Describe the influence of media and its role in civics education, and how to address challenges of modern media in regards to civics and the modern political climate.
6. Describe how equity is an important factor in civics education.
7. Apply strategies and resources that engage students through a student-centered approach including civil discourse, online activities, and civic learning in action.
8. Identify opportunities for young leaders to engage in civics education in the real-world.

Modules

- Module 1: Importance of Civics Education, Quiz 1



- Module 2: New Legislation and Recommendation for Implementing Civics Education in K-12 Education, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Recommendations and Guidelines for Building Civics Education Curriculum, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Resources and Activities to Teach Civics Education, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Media and its Role in Civics Education, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Equity and Civics Education, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Civics in Action, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Civics Opportunities for Young Leaders, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.