

# Virtual Learning Environments

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# About Me



- 38 years in the Fire Service (Georgia Based)
- Started in 1985 (US Air Force)
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- State of Georgia Live Fire Instructor/Adjunct Instructor
- Retired July 2020 at the level of Battalion Chief
- BS and MS from the University of Florida
- Currently, UF Instructional Assistant Professor



# What is a Virtual Classroom?



- Video conferencing tool where instructors and students engage with each other during an instructional/training session.
- Can be a live lecture, recorded training session, or a totally independent self-study session.



# Virtual Classroom Components



- Utilizes learning materials in the form of documents, slide decks, or multi-media files
- Enhanced screen-sharing and virtual whiteboard features
- Allows for polls and quizzes to check student understanding
- Allows for student participation
- Allows for recorded sessions
- Allows for breakout sessions



# Online Learning History



- 1892 University of Chicago (U.S. Postal Correspondence Courses)
- 1960s Linked-computer Systems
- 1982 CalCampus uses computers for virtual instruction
- 1989 University of Phoenix develops virtual classroom format for distance learning
- Early 1990s, Internet and Email Explosion
- 2019, 97% of all educational institutions move to online format due Covid-19



# Pre-Covid/Covid Online Learning



- Top Hat Study: US and Canada
- 69% Online Learning is not as effective as in-person learning
- 66% Online Learning Experience is Not Engaging
- 75% Lack of Face-to-Face Interaction
- 24% Lack of Access
- NREMT: Only 10% of training allowed to be through online education

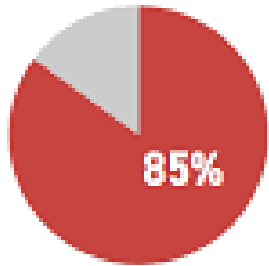


# Post Covid Online Learning

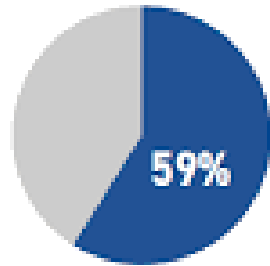


## INSTITUTIONS REPORT DISTANCE EDUCATION LIKELY TO CONTINUE POST-PANDEMIC

According to a voluntary survey of SARA-participating institutions\*



Moved courses to emergency remote learning in Fall 2020 because of the pandemic



Plan to continue some or all of their emergency remote learning offerings via distance education after the pandemic

- 2023 Inside Higher Education Study
- 72% Reputable way to get Training/Education
- 84% Online training the same or better than classroom training
- 90% Online education as effective in equipping students with knowledge and skills
- NREMT: 100% of recertification training can come from virtual training options



# Virtual Classroom Benefits

- Accessibility (Anytime, Anywhere)
- Better Time Management
- Personalized Education
- Flexibility
- Asynchronous Discussion
- Immediate Feedback
- Cost Advantages





# Virtual Classroom Disadvantages



- Requires strong self-motivation and time management skills
- Social Isolation (Lacks face-to-face communication)
- Infrastructure/Technology Challenges
- Assessment Challenges
- Digital Fatigue
- Expense



# Virtual Classroom Sites



- Canvas
- GoToTraining
- Train (Train.org)
- Moodle
- Google Workspace
- Zoom

The screenshot shows a Canvas LMS course page for "FES4003-3628(12261) - Fire and Emerg Svcs" by "Adm(UFO)". The page title is "Fire and Emergency Service Administration FES 4003". Below the title are three images: a fire truck, a blue "EVACUATION ROUTE" sign, and a fire truck with "EMERGENCY 911" on its side. The instructor is listed as "Adam A. Smith, MSFES, NREMT-P, Instructional Assistant Professor" with the email address [fyrewlker@ufl.edu](mailto:fyrewlker@ufl.edu). The page number "184, 998, 8176" is visible at the bottom. The browser's address bar shows the URL "ufl.instructure.com/course/495814". The browser's taskbar shows various applications like Yahoo, Pandora, GatorMail, Canvas, NREMT, GA DPH, FL EMS, Kops, LinkedIn, Business Center, DASH, OPS, ICFM, ADAMS, UPS/DPS, FedEx, ICFM Teams, NH, CB-Care, MYUFL, and DocuSign Login. The browser's context menu is open on the right side of the page, showing options like Back, Forward, Reload, Save as..., Print..., Find..., Search images with Google, Send to your devices, Create QR Code for this page, Translate to English, Open in reading mode, View page source, and Inspect.





# Virtual Learning Environment



# You're Invited!

## University of Florida Fire and Emergency Services 25th Anniversary Summit

Join us for a day celebrating the 25th Anniversary of UF's FES program.  
We're excited to announce a lineup of distinguished speakers!

**Keynote Speaker: Craig Fugate, former Administrator of FEMA**

There will also be remarks and presentations from:

Dr. Scott Angle, UF Provost

JoAnne Rice, Director Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

Rand Napoli, retired Director Florida Division of State Fire Marshal



### Agenda

8:30 am – 9:00 am – Breakfast/Registration

9:00 am – 11:45 am – Morning Speaker Session

11:45 am – 1:00 pm – Networking Lunch

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Parallel Learning Sessions

Requires advance registration – to follow via email  
provided in RSVP

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm – Closing Session

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Reception

### DATE

May 9, 2024  
8:30 am – 6:30 pm

### RSVP



### LOCATION

Rinker Hall  
573 Newell Dr,  
Gainesville, FL 32603

# References



- Champlain College. (2023, November 9). *Data Reveals New Insights on Online Higher Education Post-Pandemic*. <https://online.champlain.edu/blog/data-reveals-new-insights-online-higher-education-post-pandemic>
- Coffey, Lauren. (2023, November 13). *Public Perception of Online Education Improved Sharply Post-Pandemic*. Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/teaching-learning/2023/11/13/survey-public-perception-online-education>
- Tophat. (2020). *Higher Ed Students Grade the Fall 2020 Semester*. [https://tophat.com/wp-content/uploads/TopHat\\_StudentSurvey\\_P2.pdf?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiTmpFd09EaGhORGt4TVRSaClIsInQiOiJJZdERhWm4wRWZYS240RWFCU1B3SHloTEkrUUtcL3laWHRNXC9MYnp3d0dNVEVaTU55dFZVbWI3TURQUEpkdjlCdTg0TTBjTGJSM2RpN1g3SEtSOVFvQVlEWfwwSW10SHdUN2FEaW5SU1JrQXpzWjZUXC96aUFGaisyT003U0JKbDJCbUoifQ%3D%3D](https://tophat.com/wp-content/uploads/TopHat_StudentSurvey_P2.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTmpFd09EaGhORGt4TVRSaClIsInQiOiJJZdERhWm4wRWZYS240RWFCU1B3SHloTEkrUUtcL3laWHRNXC9MYnp3d0dNVEVaTU55dFZVbWI3TURQUEpkdjlCdTg0TTBjTGJSM2RpN1g3SEtSOVFvQVlEWfwwSW10SHdUN2FEaW5SU1JrQXpzWjZUXC96aUFGaisyT003U0JKbDJCbUoifQ%3D%3D)
- Vinikas, Immanuel. (2021, January 25). *Virtual Classroom: What it is and How it works*. Kaltura. <https://corp.kaltura.com/blog/what-is-a-virtual-classroom/>

