Instructional Technology and Academic Services

The Instructional Technology and Academic Services division of Academic Outreach at The University of Alabama supports the development and delivery of distance learning programs offered by the various colleges of the University in partnership with the College of Continuing Studies. We provide our academic partners with services ranging from design and development of online courses, to faculty professional development and technical support.

We value our relationships with faculty members to deliver the best distance learning to every student. Please contact us with your needs and suggestions. Faculty and student success is our desire and goal.

Dixie MacNeil - She’s taking distance learning to new heights
Interim Assistant Dean, College of Continuing Studies & Director, Academic Outreach

Dixie is always up for a challenge. She’s a rare individual with boundless energy, laser-sharp intelligence and enthusiasm. These talents serve her well as a leader within the College of Continuing Studies. She earned a B.A. in Spanish and Education and an M.B.A. from The University of Iowa, but as Dixie will tell you, “We never stop learning.” Every day is a new adventure. She enjoys bicycling and travels to unusual and exotic places to learn more about them. In fact, her office is wall-to-wall photos of her trekking expeditions. She leads her team with a true Crimson Tide spirit, creativity and drive.

Meet Our Instructional Technology & Faculty Services Team

Jackie Vetter - Program Manager, Instructional Technology and Academic Services
Big Brain and Big Heart

Jackie has a passion for making higher education available to people who might not otherwise have access to it. As the Manager of Instructional Technology and Academic Services, she is able to fulfill this passion while overseeing the development of all University of Alabama college and non-credit online courses. Her role includes managing the instructional design team. Jackie has been with The University of Alabama since 2005, but has been involved with education technology since the 1990s. She began her career in medical technology education and then moved to hospital education. She is a fast learner teaching herself Photoshop, Flash, and taking courses in HTML and web development. Jackie earned a B.S. in Medical Technology and a M.A. in Supervision and Curriculum Design.

Josh Michael - Program Manager, Instructional Technology and Academic Services
Home Grown Talent

Josh began his career at UA as a student worker in the online tech support office before advancing on to the Instructional Design team. In his current role as Program Manager, Josh leads the technical support team area and is responsible for professional development of online faculty and assessment of UA’s online programs. Josh has a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics and a M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction (Secondary Mathematics) from UA. What makes Josh love being at UA is working with the “superb staff” and in an environment where he not only helps people but is always learning new and exciting things. In his free time he enjoys mountain biking and hiking.

Misha Drilova – Manager, Instructional Technology and Services
Meditation for higher learning

In her role as Manager, Misha does a bit of everything — research, development, planning, implementation and technical support of online courses. She is an administrative leader for technical systems and resources for distance learning programs. Maybe what helps her keep that all under control is her love of yoga and meditation. She is a member of the Birmingham Shambhala Meditation Center. Misha earned a B.S. in Computer Science from UA and is a current student in the University’s Master of Social Work program.

Boyd Drewelow – Senior Instructional Designer
Technology from a Teacher