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## FDI 2006 Workshop Tracks

The 2006 Faculty Development Institute continues an increased effort to allow greater customization and personalization of attendance options for spring and summer workshops. This increased customization is in recognition of faculty research travel commitments during summer. Specific times for personal project development with lab assistant support are planned for all 2006 summer workshops.

Sessions of Tracks B, C, D, E, G, K, and P will be offered in the end of January through March as an alternative to summer attendance. Enrollment is limited in these spring offerings.

### FDI 2006 Summer Workshop Track Descriptions

Track	Workshop Title
Track A	<a href="#">New Faculty Technology Orientation</a>
Track B	<a href="#">An Introduction to Blackboard</a>
Track C	<a href="#">Using the Web for Instruction: Blackboard and Other Tools</a>
Track D	<a href="#">New Strategies and Tools for Teaching with Technology</a>
Track E	<a href="#">Creating Media Content</a>
Track F	<a href="#">Developing and Delivering Online Instruction at a Distance</a>
Track G	<a href="#">Creating Learner-Centered Instruction</a>
Track H	<a href="#">Northern Virginia Center: Using the Web for Instruction</a>
Track J	<a href="#">Using Mathematica for Research and Instruction</a>
Track K	<a href="#">Furthering Your Research Agenda</a>
Track L	<a href="#">Creating Database-driven Web Sites with PHP &amp; MySQL</a>
Track M	<a href="#">Parallel Programming</a>

Track N	<a href="#">Using Tablet PCs in the Classroom: Teaching in a Mobile Environment</a>
Track O	<a href="#">Statistics, SAS and Experimental Design</a>
Track P	<a href="#">Independent Project Development</a>
Track Q	<a href="#">Using LabVIEW</a>

**Note:** Brief descriptions of each track are provided below to help clarify the scope of each workshop's objectives and prerequisites.

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#### Track A - New Faculty Technology Orientation (2 days)

This summer track is intended for faculty who were recently hired at Virginia Tech (within the last 12 months). This workshop will provide an overview of computing resources and support services available to all faculty at our university. In addition, this track will include optional, hands-on sessions covering the most commonly needed computing skills. These will include word processing, web authoring (with both Macromedia's Dreamweaver and Adobe Acrobat), and an overview of course management systems at Virginia Tech.

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#### Track B - An Introduction to Blackboard (2 days)

This summer track is intended for faculty who have never used the course management tool Blackboard or have only used it in a limited fashion and need a re-introduction. Blackboard 6 will be the central topic of this track and will be taught with the assumption that participants are somewhat new to the use of the web for instruction. Blackboard topics will include navigating Blackboard's portal, considerations of online learning, managing the student view, creating and customizing a course, uploading files to Blackboard, using the test manager, and using Blackboard's gradebook. In addition to these Blackboard topics, other software and skills will be introduced that will further enable faculty to use Blackboard effectively. These topics will include creating web-readable documents from Microsoft Word, enhancing PDF files with Adobe Acrobat, and creating web-readable images for Blackboard. Faculty speakers will also be an integral part of this track, ensuring that technical skills are coupled with informed pedagogical practice. Participants are encouraged to bring syllabi and other documents on which to work during this track.

[See more information about the Spring version of Track B.](#)

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#### Track C - Using the Web for Instruction: Blackboard and Other Tools (3 days)

This summer track will provide a broad overview of how the web can be utilized to enhance traditional course activities. This track is intended for faculty who have some experience utilizing Blackboard; however, extensive instructional use of the web is not a pre-requisite. Exemplary course environments will be displayed, interactive teaching methods will be discussed, and best practices regarding the use of Blackboard and other tools will be provided. The most important new features in the latest version of Blackboard (version 6) will be shown, and faculty will gain in-depth, hands-on experience with Blackboard's gradebook, question pool tool, and other capabilities. In addition to Blackboard 6, participants will learn how to use Macromedia Dreamweaver and Adobe Acrobat to create high quality web documents, both of which can be uploaded into Blackboard. Further, emerging technologies and strategies will also be discussed. Faculty are encouraged to come to this track with a project in mind; time and one-on-one assistance will be provided for faculty so that they can develop their own course materials. Additionally, participants will be allowed to customization portions of the track to more accurately meet their technological and pedagogical needs.

[See more information about the Spring version of Track C.](#)

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#### Track D - New Strategies and Tools for Teaching with Technology (3 days)

This summer track is intended for the faculty member who is already using various technologies in her/his courses and would like to explore the latest tools, strategies, and methodologies that will enhance and extend his/her current practice. Topics will range from the theoretical (motivating your students, student culture and technology, evaluating instruction, and more) to the practical (Scholar, ePortfolio, student response systems ("clickers"), Dreamweaver, podcasting, AOL Instant Messenger, streaming media, Breeze Presenter, and more). Hands-on experiences with emerging technologies, as well as opportunities for discussion concerning the functionality and pedagogical applicability of these tools will be hallmarks of this track. Faculty speakers will also be an integral part of this track, ensuring that technical skills are coupled with informed pedagogical practice. Participants are encouraged to bring syllabi and other documents on which to work during this track.

[See more information about the Spring version of Track D.](#)

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#### Track E - Creating Media Content (2 days)

This summer track is designed for faculty who already have experience with web development and have an interest or need to include media objects within their instructional or research projects. The focus of this track will be creating three types of media: images, audio, and video; sessions will include topics such as project planning, creating and manipulating still images, and capturing and editing audio and video. During each session, care will be taken to discuss appropriate formats for print and web distribution of media. Sessions will alternate between hands-on exercises and instructor/faculty led discussions, and faculty speakers will be an integral part of this track, ensuring that technical skills are coupled with informed pedagogical practice. This workshop can be used as a companion to Tracks C and/or K, and academic support staff and graduate teaching assistants may participate with faculty as a 2-person project team.

[See more information about the Spring version of Track E.](#)

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#### Track F - Developing and Delivering Online Instruction at a Distance (3 days)

This track is designed for faculty who are currently (or have an interest in teaching) fully-online, web-based courses. Staff from the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (IDDL) will guide participants through a sample online course which will demonstrate several kinds of online instruction. Participants will then learn how to create similar instruction using a variety of tools, including Blackboard, Breeze, Camtasia, Centra, Diploma, and several software solutions created by IDDL. While this track will provide hands-on practice using a variety of tools and techniques for creating high quality, interactive, and effective online course materials, these experiences will be coupled with discussions concerning best practices to maximize learning and retention.

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#### Track G - Creating Learner-Centered Instruction (2 days plus online modules)

This summer track provides participants with an array of resources and methodologies designed to inform and enhance instruction within the learner-centered paradigm. Each participant will have the opportunity to design or redesign a lesson, unit, lab, or course, utilizing learner-centered strategies gathered from guest speakers and the online modules included in the track. This track will require participants to attend two full days of FDI workshops and complete a series of online modules in order to receive a computer. Topics discussed during the face-to-face portions will include practical student-centered instructional strategies, student culture, student motivation, critical literacy, and emerging student-centered technologies such as student response systems ("clickers"). The first and second workshop days will take place one week apart to allow for the completion of the online modules prior to the second workshop day.

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**Track H - Northern Virginia Center: Using the Web for Instruction (3 days at NVC)**

This track, intended for faculty at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center, will provide a broad overview of how the web can be utilized to enhance traditional course activities. Participants will learn how to use Blackboard, Virginia Tech's course management system, to manage course documents, create quizzes, manage discussions, and use the online gradebook. Several interactive teaching methods and tools will be discussed, and participants will learn how to use Macromedia's Dreamweaver and Adobe Acrobat to create high quality web documents. Discussions will also focus on the challenges of teaching with technology, often at a distance.

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**Track J - Using Mathematica for Research and Instruction (3 days)**

This summer track will provide participants with a hands-on overview of Mathematica's features and functions. Focus will be given to common research and instructional uses of Mathematica with emphasis on programming topics. This track can be used as a companion to Tracks C and/or K, and academic support staff and graduate teaching assistants may participate with faculty as a 2-person project team.

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**Track K - Furthering Your Research Agenda (See Spring for Details)**

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**Track L – Creating Database-driven Web Sites with PHP & MySQL (3 days)**

This summer track will present the issues involved in creating "dynamic" database-driven web sites through a series of hands-on activities. These activities will enable participants to create dynamic web sites from materials provided during the workshop. Central concepts involved in creating dynamic web sites will be taught, and a discussion of web-based databases will be integral to this track. Applications and technologies that will be taught during this workshop will include Dreamweaver, PHP and MySQL. This track can be used as a companion to Tracks C and/or K, and academic support staff and graduate teaching assistants may participate with faculty as a 2-person project team.

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**Track M - Parallel Programming (3 days)**

This summer track is designed to assist faculty in understanding how Virginia Tech's supercomputer (System X) can be utilized for research. Parallel programming concepts will be central to this discussion. Participants will also learn the basics of the Message Passing Interface (MPI) for distributed memory systems as well as code optimization for Symmetric Multiprocessing (SMP) shared memory systems. Emphasis will be placed on numerical research applications in the computational science and engineering disciplines. This track can be used as a companion to Tracks C and/or K, and faculty are encouraged to bring one graduate student with them from their research team.

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**Track N - Using Tablet PCs in the Classroom: Teaching in a Mobile Environment (3 days)**

This summer track will familiarize faculty with tablet computing in instructional environments. Topics will include an exploration of the built in tablet/ink features within the Microsoft Office suite, the tablet PC version of the Windows operating system, and a Tablet PC hardware overview. A variety of interactive, classroom-based software will also be explored, including Microsoft OneNote and Classroom Presenter. Faculty who select a Tablet PC as their computer of choice will find this track to be of exceptional value. Sessions will alternate between hands-on and faculty-led discussion.

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**Track O - Statistics, SAS and Experimental Design (3 days)**

This hands-on summer track will explore the fundamentals of experimental design and data analysis using SAS. An introduction to experimental designs such as completely randomized design, randomized complete block design, split plots, and repeated measures will be given accompanied by the corresponding analysis in SAS. Participants will leave this track with an understanding of how to run these simpler models within the SAS environment. In addition to the instruction, participants will also have opportunities within the track to receive consulting assistance and are encouraged to bring in projects on which they are currently working. Participants will also learn where they can go on campus to receive additional assistance regarding experimental design as well as SAS. No prior knowledge of SAS is required but some familiarity with introductory statistics is necessary. Those who currently have or are planning a project will find this track to be of great value. The track can be used as a companion to other tracks, such as "Furthering Your Research Agenda". Academic support staff and graduate teaching assistants may also participate with faculty as a 2-person project team.

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**Track P - Independent Project Development ([See Spring for Details](#))**

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**Track Q - Using LabVIEW**

This hands-on track will explore the fundamentals of building a robust test, measurement, and/or control system with LabVIEW and data acquisition and instrument control hardware. Participants will gain hands-on experience with LabVIEW and learn how its graphical development can help reduce development time and create flexible applications that easily integrate with thousands of I/O devices from hundreds of vendors, getting you to a solution faster. This track is designed for engineers, scientists, and technicians who build test, measurement, process monitoring and control, and/or research and analysis applications. This track can be used as a companion to Tracks C and/or K, and academic support staff and graduate teaching assistants may participate with faculty as a 2-person project team.

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