

MIST Narrative Summary
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As a student with a couple of graduate degrees already I decided to pursue the MIST program primarily to learn more about teaching in an online or asynchronous environment. I was most interested in the technology aspects of instructional design and the MIST program definitely provided the opportunity to learn and practice with technology. Now that I have completed most of the program, I can assert that more courses should require or provide opportunities to explore technology as a means of developing instructional content. While this may seem like a deficit in the curriculum, it is just a reflection on my learning over the past year and a half. I believe that my most valuable experiences in the program are the courses I learned the most about technology and how to design and manage online learning.

First, IST 526 I learned to use Adobe Captivate. While it can be frustrating and has a mind of its own, I am able to use Captivate to design engaging multimedia-based content that supports my teaching as well as allows for practice and knowledge development. In IST 541 we are designing websites using coding to create content. For years I have been responsible for website development and maintenance in my work, and yet I have never fully understood how to create new content. This course has forced me to learn how to create new sites, understand CSS, and how to successfully embed media into a site. The course is challenging, but the instructor gives such excellent guidance that I plan to continue learning more once the course is over. Both of these courses were very hands-on and allowed for repetition and practice which are so critical to learning.

Second, the knowledge gained in IST 522 and 626 have prepared me to become a very successful instructor in a virtual environment. IST 522 set the foundation for how to develop a project from start to finish. This course set the tone for the entire MIST program and that is largely due to the instructors incredibly clear and concise way of explaining WHY. Next, IST 626 was an incredible opportunity to work on a project with an external partner. While there was plenty of group work in this program, this course required that each member of the team work in unison and seamlessly. I learned a lot about myself in this course, but also how to be a better teammate and how to work through the development of a project.

I would consider the four courses outlined above critical to my persistence in this program and invaluable to my career. Each course provided a different opportunity to enhance my skills, develop personally and professionally, and work with an amazing group of people. I learned as much from my teammates as I did in my courses. I would absolutely state that weekly team meetings were the highlight of this program. Just knowing you have resources and support from other students was incredible. On a final note, the hybrid format of the program was a huge benefit as a working professional and I would encourage anyone interested in instructional design to consider CSUMB.