

To Be or Not to Be an Online Math Instructor?

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Abstract

Have you been asked to teach an online course yet? If not, chances are you will—and soon. The demand for online instructors is increasing, and institutions, including community colleges, are expecting their faculty, especially junior and adjunct instructors, to step forward. Your answer is not necessarily an easy yes or no. Although online teaching has much in common with face-to-face instruction, significant differences exist. Your decision may be aided by consideration of seven key factors, ranging from your own online learning experience, through the compatibility of your preferred teaching style with effective online instruction, to what adjustments you may need to make in designing mathematical activities for teaching online. A considered answer based on these factors will more likely lead to your success. Here we review some facts about online instruction and offer a guided tour through decision-making about the seven factors.



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