Distance Learning Facilitator Training

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If you have no experience as a distance learning facilitator, imagine that you have been hired for this role. What training do you feel you must receive to be most effective in this role? When should this training occur?

I feel in order to become the most effective distance learning facilitator; I would need to educate myself with four main things. In my opinion technology, communication skills, people management, and course content are the most important skills an online facilitator should possess. In my opinion, this should occur prior to my first teaching assignment. (It would be preferred if I was hired; I would already have the necessary education and background which would allow me the qualifications to teach students.) I should know how to navigate through the University’s website and troubleshoot any difficulties without question. I have experienced the best courses with open communication. I feel it would be in my best interest to become a champion of communication and interact properly with my students on a daily basis. I think by having a people management background, or even a profiling background on individuals, it would create a successful learning environment. Obviously, if I do not know the course content; I would be missing the boat completely. I should be the expert in the classroom on the subject at hand. If I am developing the course; I should be the “go-to” person for the students to be able to assist at all times.