Program Overview Transcript
Online Ed.S. Orientation

Welcome to Kennesaw State University's Instructional Technology Program!
I am Dr. Jo Williamson, an Associate Professor in the Department of Instructional Technology. In this presentation, I will be providing you with an overview of the program, including your course work, what you will learn, and—most importantly--what you will be able to do after you graduate!

All of our programs here at Kennesaw State University are built on Educational Technology Standards or NETS published by the International Society for Education (or ISTE). The NETS consist of five sets of Standards.

- NETS-Students (NETS-S)
- NETS-Teachers (NETS-T)
- NETS-Administrators (NETS-A)
- NETS-Technology Coaches (NETS-C)
- NETS-Technology Directors (NETS-TD)

The EdS program you are about to begin is built on the The NETS-Cs. As you progress through this program, you will improve your ability to use technology effectively in K-12 instruction and become an effective Technology Coach—someone who helps other educators use technology effectively. BUT, since ALL the NETS are important, let’s just take a few minutes to see how the five individual sets of standards work together to make effective technology implementation possible in K-12 schools.

Let’s start with the NETS for Students. The purpose of the NETS-S is to describe the skills and knowledge K-12 students need to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. Knowing about the NETS-S is central. All other NETS are geared toward helping our K-12 Students reach these important standards.

Of course, students cannot achieve the NETS-S unless teachers have reliable access to the technologies they need and the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate technology effectively into research-based teaching and learning practices. For these reasons, ISTE also developed NETS for teachers (NETS-T), administrators (NETS-A), technology coaches (NETS-C), and technology directors (NETS-TD).

As you can see in this graphic, teachers must support student’s acquisition of the NETS-S and administrators, coaches, and tech directors must support teachers’ development of the NETS-T. Do you see the importance of Technology coaches?

One sidebar about the standards...Ideally, the NETS-T should be pre-requisites to the Administrator, Tech Coach, and Technology Director Standards. Teachers should learn the NETS-T in undergraduate teacher preparation programs and hone their technology skills in the classroom before they enter graduate programs in educational leadership or instructional technology. Of course, in reality, we know that this may not be happening yet. We understand that you may be developing your NETS-T and NETS-C skills simultaneously in this program. That’s totally okay. We are very used to this phenomenon and are equipped to help you! We suggest that you assess your own abilities and set goals that are achievable for you. Each of you may progress at different rates, but the important thing is to move forward and learn the principles for helping others. Even if you are somewhat of a technology novice, we believe that you can grow your technical skills in this program and become an excellent coach. Research findings support that the best coaches are not necessarily the most knowledgeable content experts, but those who know how to develop relationships and learn WITH others.
So now you understand that you are preparing to be a technology coach, but what exactly does that mean? Well, many believe that it would be best to have at least one full-time Technology Coach at every school—but in reality tech coaching is accomplished in many different ways. Sometimes, technology coaches are shared among schools. Sometimes a technology coaches teach K-12 students part of the day and have release time to help others. Often—a technology coaches are full-time teachers who simply help their colleagues during team meetings, before/after school, or any other time they find some spare time. These full time teacher-coaches also lead by example, showing others what is possible by using technology effectively in their own classrooms.

If you are a Georgia teacher, I have one more important message about standards. Georgia teachers are also going to be addressing the Georgia Professional Standards Commissions’ Instructional Technology Standards in your portfolio. By showing that you have mastered these standards, you are eligible to apply for Instructional Technology Certification in GA. However, don’t worry, it is not extra work to address both sets of standards. The NETS-C and the GA IT standards are basically identical and your coursework is designed to help you achieve both at the same time with no additional work. Both the NETS-C and the GA IT Standards will be listed for you in course syllabi and your portfolio template is designed for both sets of standards.

The NETS-C used in this program were adopted in June 2011. They consist of Six Standards and 28 elements. The six major standards areas are:

- **Visionary Leadership**
- **Teaching, Learning, & Assessments**
- **Digital-Age Learning Environments**
- **Professional Development & Program Evaluation**
- **Digital Citizenship**
- **Content Knowledge and Professional Growth**

One of your first activities as an Instructional Technology candidate should be to download these standards and familiarize yourself with them. You can find these standards at iste.org under the standards menu.

It would also be a good idea to look over the courses you will take during your degree program. We often refer to this list of courses as your “program of study.” You can find your program of study at: www.kennesaw.edu/iteceds

In this program of study, you will find six Instructional Technology courses, or ITEC courses, that will help you master the ISTE NETS-C Standards. They are:

ITEC 7400 - 21st Century Teaching & Learning
ITEC 7410 - Instructional Technology Leadership
ITEC 7430 - Internet Tools in the Classroom
ITEC 7445 - Multimedia and Web Design in Education
ITEC 7460 - Professional Learning & Technology Innovation
ITEC 7305 - Data Analysis & School Improvement

When you begin these six Instructional Technology courses, the syllabi will outline which ISTE NETS-C standards are being addressed. In each class, you will have assignments, projects, and field experiences to help you show mastery of these standards.

At the very end of the program you will enroll in ITEC 7500 and compile a portfolio with a section for each ISTE NETS-C standard. This portfolio will show that you are able to perform each standard and are truly ready to begin coaching others.
Educational organizations, State departments of education, regional offices of education, universities, and for-profit businesses also hire people with instructional technology degrees. Technology coaching or helping others use technology effectively to support K-12 student learning is a marketable skill.

What is important to remember is—whether you choose to pursue a full-time or part-time technology position or stay in the classroom full-time after you graduate, you can be a very, very effective tech coach.

Well, I hope this provides a big-picture overview of what you will accomplish during this program that will help you to use technology more effectively in your classroom and to become a valuable technology coach.