**Statement from Western Governors University**

The principal faculty role at WGU is that of “mentor.” These full-time faculty members work with students one-on-one or in small groups. Students are assigned a faculty mentor (called a student mentor) the day they begin at WGU, who works with them regularly until the day they graduate. Student mentors have a minimum of a master’s degree in their field and are well-versed in the academic requirements of their assigned students’ entire programs. In addition, for every course, there is a “course mentor,” the Ph.D. subject matter expert who is available to answer questions, lead small group discussions, provide instructional help, and help students master, apply, and synthesize what they are learning. The faculty mentors are not responsible for evaluating the mastery of competencies – WGU employs a separate group of faculty as “evaluators.” These evaluators review and evaluate student essays, performance tasks, portfolios, and projects.

Other faculty members, trained in instructional design, have primary responsibility for program design, including the selection and sequencing of learning resources. Still other faculty, trained in assessment development and psychometrics, are responsible to develop valid and reliable assessments to measure student competency.