

Michael Barbour is currently an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where he where he teaches Instructional Technology and Qualitative Research Methodology. He completed his Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from the Department of Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology at the University of Georgia, his Master of Education (Teaching and Learning), with concentrations in Literacy and Computers in Education, and his Bachelor of Education (Intermediate and Secondary) from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Prior to his studies in education, Michael completed his Bachelor of Arts (Honours), with a major in Political Science and a minor in History, from Carleton University. He also holds Graduate Certificates in Qualitative Inquiry and in University Teaching from the University of Georgia and a Certificate in Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University.

Originally from the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Michael's interest in distance education for rural students began after accepting his first high school teaching position in a regional high school in a rural community of approximately 3,500 people. As a classroom teacher at Discovery Collegiate for four years, Michael was active in the field of providing Advanced Placement (AP) courses to secondary students at his own school and throughout North America in an asynchronous, online format through the Centre for Advanced Placement Education. The Centre and Michael's own contributions to online teaching received international attention, as evidenced when he was invited to develop a course and team teach with the Illinois Virtual High School . Michael later joined a group of educators to form St. Brendan's College, an incorporated virtual entity which operated from 2003 to 2005 offering online AP courses to students worldwide.

For more than a decade now, Michael has worked with numerous K-12 online learning programs in Canada, the United States, New Zealand, and around the world as a teacher, course developer, administrator, evaluator, and researcher. His current research interests focus on the effective design, delivery, and support of online learning to K-12 students in virtual school environments, particularly those in rural jurisdictions.

Michael currently resides in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.