



Center for Teaching
and Learning
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Active Learning Summer Institute

May 12 – 29, 2026

*“The **change in my mindset** and approach to teaching has really been profound ... [these] changes **will create a more engaged environment** that will be more **beneficial for ALL students.**”*

- 2019 ALSI Participant

Open to all full-time faculty, this intensive course redesign institute promotes increased student engagement and success through the implementation of active learning techniques.

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Institute Synopsis

Active learning strategies involve students in the construction of knowledge and understanding by engaging them in the learning process through activities that promote higher order thinking. An abundance of research studies on the effectiveness of active learning in the college classroom point to improved student engagement, long term retention of course content, improved competencies, and higher course grades. During the Active Learning Summer Institute (ALSI), participants will work with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to redesign a specific course and implement evidence-based instructional strategies that engage students in the learning process.

Schedule Overview

During the three-week institute, daily sessions will include discussions of active learning pedagogy and other evidence-based teaching practices, workshops to explore the application of pedagogical techniques, and structured work time where faculty will make progress on the design of their course. Participants will work towards finalizing their redesigned courses for implementation during the 2026-2027 academic year. Note that ALSI is designed to align with UGA's May Session, and we strongly discourage teaching concurrently with participation in ALSI.

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| <p>Tuesday - Friday 1:00 - 4:45 p.m.</p> | <p>Welcome & Introductions to Active Learning and Course Design</p> <p>During the first week, you will meet your colleagues and your CTL consultants. Find out what to expect as a participant in ALSI, get situated with our kickoff Active Learning 101 workshop, and then focus on the fundamentals of course design. We'll write and revise course learning objectives and consider contextual factors that impact everything about how we teach, engage, and assess our students.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday - Friday 1:00 - 4:45 p.m.</p> | <p>Assessments: Basics, Planning, and Implementation</p> <p>In Week 2, we will learn about the landscape of assessment, focus on the nuts and bolts of assessment tools, and explore the use of formative assessments of student learning. Building out from our learning objectives, we'll look through the lens of transparency in learning and teaching to enhance our ability to engage students in major assignments. Time is built in for you to draft and set the stage for a robust assessment plan for your course. We will also have an ALSI Alumni Panel to discuss how to go from a great plan to great execution and real-time teaching.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday - Friday 1:00 - 4:45 p.m.</p> | <p>Instructional Choices for Active Learning</p> <p>In Week 3, we will get to the fundamentals of lesson planning, how to make the most of the first day of class and create a welcoming learning environment by removing unnecessary (and often unnoticed) barriers to learning. We'll wrap up the Active Learning Summer Institute with reflection both backward and forward: where we've come and where we have yet to go.</p> |



Expectations

Each participant in ALSI will be expected to:

- Attend all sessions during the face-to-face portion of ALSI;
- Complete the redesign work started during the institute, for implementation during the following academic year;
- Complete pre- and post-assessment surveys and turn in existing course artifacts (e.g., syllabus) both before and after participation in ALSI;
- Submit draft course artifacts at the end of each week of ALSI, in line with the work done during that week;
- Meet with your dedicated CTL Consultant at least once between the end of ALSI and the first day of your redesigned course;
- Schedule a [Mid-Semester Formative Evaluation](#) with the CTL, for your redesigned course.
- Prepare a poster (don't worry, we'll help you!) to present your work at the 2027 Active Learning Summit (details TBD in coordination with [UGA's Active learning QEP](#));
- Coordinate with QEP leadership to provide students in your ALSI course with a reflection prompt for three semesters following the course redesign, as part of QEP assessment efforts.

In return you'll receive curated and one-on-one support from the CTL and \$7,500 in funds (eligible for use as summer salary and/or operating expenses).

Application Process

To apply to the Active Learning Summer Institute, applicants will submit the following:

- Your responses to a set of application questions (a Word template containing these questions is provided at the top of the form).
- Confirmation of teaching the proposed courses for the academic year 2026-2027.
- Commitment to meeting the expectations, if being accepted into the ALSI.
- A support letter from your dean, associate dean, or department head (a Word template for this support letter is provided in the form).

**Apply by
January 15, 2026**