

Active Learning Workshop Series

ACTIVE LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS

These four workshops cover topics that are fundamental to the adoption, selection, and implementation of active learning strategies. All four workshops will be offered twice each academic year. Though we recommend prioritized engagement in these four workshops, *instructors need not complete all four fundamental workshops before engaging in special topics workshops.*

1. Active Learning 101

Active Learning is a fundamental feature of effective teaching and learning. But what does an active learning course look like from the instructor's perspective, or across various disciplines? How does active learning support student learning and engagement? This workshop will provide you with the chance to explore how and why active learning facilitates student engagement, collaboration, and reflection.

2. How Learning Works: Engage Your Students in Active Learning

As instructors, we accumulate key "tried-and-true" teaching strategies over time that work for us and our students. How can we leverage the empirical evidence behind how learning works to give these strategies a boost? Drawing upon the science of learning, this session will provide you with strategies to transform your classroom into an engaging and transformative learning environment that is conducive to student learning.

3. Got it!? Assess Student Learning Just in Time

Have you ever wondered how much your students are learning from what you just covered? How do you know whether your students are ready to apply what they have learned? Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) can help us to find out! CATs are simple and often ungraded in-class activities that help instructors and students alike monitor the teaching-learning process in real time. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to experience and discuss CATs, and will gain practice selecting and integrating appropriate CATs into their teaching.

4. Designing and Facilitating an Effective Learning Environment

As an instructor, you have more control over the learning environment in your classroom than you might guess. Research tells us that when students feel a sense of belonging in your classroom, and sense that their instructor is invested in their success as learners, they are more likely to attend class, participate in discussions, and engage in learning activities. Importantly, there is also a great deal of reciprocal synergy between the use of active learning strategies and the cultivation of an effective and engaging classroom environment. In this workshop, we will explore concrete strategies that instructors can use to shape a learning environment that promotes student motivation, intellectual focus, and a sense of belonging.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN ACTIVE LEARNING

These workshops delve into special topics related to the selection, design, and implementation of active learning strategies. These workshops will be offered on a rotating schedule.

5. Overcoming Student Resistance to Active Learning

Fear of student resistance can prevent instructors from deepening their commitment to active learning strategies. But what if you knew the important “instructor moves” that can be used to prevent and counter student resistance? In this workshop, we will explore the Integrated Model for Student Resistance (Tolman and Kremling, 2016) and apply what we learn to realistic case studies. Explanation and facilitation strategies that have been demonstrated to reduce student resistance to active learning will be discussed.

6. Setting the Stage for An Engaged Semester

How can we help students remain engaged and enthusiastically learning - and do so without draining our own bandwidth? In this interactive workshop, we will discuss concrete practices for the first day(s) of class that promote a positive learning environment and foster connections between students, between students and instructor, and between students and course content.

7. Integrating Writing to Activate Learning in Any Class

In partnership with the Writing Intensive and Writing Certificate Programs

Active learning has been shown to promote improved student writing skills, but did you know that writing itself is a key active learning strategy? In this workshop, we'll explore how writing activities can be an integral part of your active learning classroom. During the session, the facilitators will model various writing strategies, and participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm ways writing-to-learn activities can support student learning in a variety of instructional scenarios.

8. Facilitating Engaging Discussions

How do we facilitate classroom discussions in which distinct ideas and multiple perspectives are shared? How can we prevent one or two voices from dominating the discussion? In this workshop, we will explore active learning strategies that establish built-in routines, support productive dialogue and active listening, and promote environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed.

9. Small Teaching, Big Impact: Integrating Lectures with Active Learning

Did you know that some comparably small (but powerful) changes can have a big impact on student engagement and success? Drawing upon James Lang's “Small Teaching” book, participants will explore an inventory of small teaching practices that can be used in classes of all sizes (including high-enrollment courses). Participants will then customize a combination of small teaching practices to incorporate into their own teaching.

10. Leveraging Active Learning to Foster Student Metacognition

Have you noticed that students who plan, monitor, and evaluate their own thinking are more likely to perform better academically? These metacognitive practices are linked with self-regulated learning and improved academic outcomes for students. Likewise, in an active learning environment, students are empowered to construct knowledge and become increasingly aware of their own learning process. In this session, we will explore specific active learning techniques that both engage students cognitively, as well as prompt students to engage their metacognitive skills.

11. Facilitating Productive Group Work

Why are instructors and students alike hesitant to use group work regularly? Perhaps for several of the same reasons! Luckily, the use of group work in higher education has been heavily studied, and the literature converges upon several effective strategies that instructors can adopt to improve their use of both formal and informal group work in their classes. In this workshop, you will explore actionable strategies for the design and management of group work that is purposeful and effective.

12. Student Development Theory

In partnership with the Office of Student Affairs

Description TBD

TENTATIVE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Fall 2022

- 3. Got it!? Assess Student Learning Just in Time (Sept. 20, 2022)
- 5. Overcoming Student Resistance to Active Learning (Oct. 11, 2022)

Spring 2023

- 1. Active Learning 101 (Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2023)
- 2. How Learning Works: Engage Your Students in Active Learning (Feb. 28 & Mar. 1, 2023)
- 6. Setting the Stage for An Engaged Semester (Jan. 10, 2023)
- 7. Integrate Writing to Activate Learning in Any Class (Mar. 21, 2023)

Fall 2023

- 1. Active Learning 101
- 3. Got it!? Assess Student Learning Just in Time
- 4. Designing and Facilitating an Effective Learning Environment
- 8. Facilitating Engaging Discussions
- 9. Small Teaching, Big Impact: Integrating Lectures with Active Learning

Spring 2024

- 2. How Learning Works: Engage Your Students in Active Learning
- 4. Designing and Facilitating an Effective Learning Environment

- 10. Leveraging Active Learning to Foster Student Metacognition
- 11. Facilitating Productive Group Work

Fall 2024

- 1. Active Learning 101
- 3. Got it!? Assess Student Learning Just in Time
- 5. Overcoming Student Resistance to Active Learning
- 12. Student Development Theory