



Center for Teaching
and Learning
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Active Learning Course Redesign Excellence Program

January - April, 2026

"I've been able to better articulate my goals for the course and align class activities and assignments with these objectives in a way that supports meaningful active learning and innovation."

- 2025 Course Redesign Excellence Faculty

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

CTL@UGA.EDU
706.542.1355





Program Synopsis

Active learning strategies involve students constructing 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.

The Active Learning Course Redesign Excellence (CRD^x) program is designed to support instructors who have gained essential knowledge from the [Active Learning Workshop Series](#) or through prior completion of the [Active Learning Summer Institute](#) (ALSI) to incorporate robust active learning practices into a targeted course during a semester-long course redesign process (January to April). The CRD^x participants will work closely 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. Like the Active Learning Summer Institute, successful completion of the CRD^x program leads to UGA’s Active Learning Leader Certificate, advancing university-wide adoption of active learning.

Schedule Overview

In this program, scheduled Thursday sessions will include discussions of course design, 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 the CRD^x program is designed to align with UGA’s Spring Semester, and participation in all scheduled sessions is required for this program.

January 2026		Welcome & Course Design 101
<p>January 15 and 22 (Thursdays) 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>During the first month, you will meet your CRD^x colleagues and your CTL consultants. Find out what to expect as a participant in this program, kick off with the Backward Design approach, and then focus on the fundamentals of course design. We will write and revise course learning outcomes and consider contextual factors that impact everything about how we teach, engage, and assess our students.</p>	
February 2026		Assessments: Basics, Planning, and Implementation
<p>February 5 and 19 (Thursdays) 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>In February, 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 outcomes, we will look through the lens of transparency in learning and teaching to enhance our ability to engage students in major assignments.</p> <p>CRD^x faculty are encouraged to attend all or part of the 2026 Active Learning Summit, taking place at Georgic Center on February 12–13, 2025.</p>	

March 2026		Course Structure and Instructional Choices
March 12 and 26 (Thursdays) 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	In March, we will get to the fundamentals of lesson planning, explore principles of Universal Design for Learning, and explore effective instructional strategies to build a supportive learning environment. We will prepare you to plan and make the most of the first day(s) of class.	
April 2026		Wrapping up: An Ending and A Beginning
April 2 and 23 (Thursdays) 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	In our final two meetings, we will step back and take a broader view of the course redesign process. You will have a one-on-one session with your CTL consultant to discuss your redesign course. We'll conclude by reflecting both backward and forward: where we've come and where we have yet to go.	

Eligibility

The Active Learning Course Redesign Excellence Program is open to all full-time faculty of all ranks. Instructors who satisfy one or both of the following prerequisites are eligible to apply for the CRD^x program:

- Completion of a minimum of eight workshops from the [Active Learning Workshop Series](#). These include all four Fundamental workshops and four Special Topics workshops by the end of the Fall semester of the application year; and/or
- Prior completion of the [Active Learning Summer Institute](#). Candidates who have previously completed the Active Learning Summer Institute are invited to submit a proposal to redesign another course using active learning pedagogy.

Expectations

Each participant in the Course Redesign Excellence (CRD^x) program will be expected to:

- Attend all scheduled sessions and workshops (occurring twice a month during January – April, as schedule notes above) in the spring semester;
- Complete course redesign work started during the CRD^x program, for implementation in the following academic year;
- Complete pre- and post-assessment surveys about current teaching practices and turn in existing course artifacts (e.g., syllabus) before and after participation in the CRD^x program;
- Submit draft course artifacts by designated deadlines during the CRD^x program, in line with work done during the program;
- Meet with your designated CTL consultant in April, at least once between the end of the CRD^x program and the first day of your redesigned course, and once more between the end of the first implementation and the start of the second implementation;
- Schedule a [Mid-Semester Formative Evaluation](#) with the CTL in the first semester of implementing your redesigned course.
- Prepare a poster (don't worry, we'll help you!) to present your work at the 2026 Active Learning Summit (details TBD in coordination with [UGA's Active Learning QEP](#));
- Coordinate with QEP leadership to provide students in your CRD^x course with a reflection prompt for three semesters following the course redesign, as part of QEP assessment efforts.

Upon successful completion of the CRD^x program, instructors will receive a \$5,000 stipend, eligible for use as salary or operating expenses.

Selection Criteria

Ten faculty members will be selected to participate in the CRD^x program each academic year.

The CRD^x Program Selection Committee evaluates applications based on the following criteria:

- **Scope of course redesign:**
Consider the extent to which the proposed course will be redesigned with active learning. Highlight specific changes in course structure, teaching approach, and any existing challenges related to this transformation.
- **Anticipated impacts:**
The expected impacts of the proposed course redesign on both instructors and students. This includes, but is not limited to, enrollment numbers, curricula or pedagogical development, and student development of knowledge and skills.
- **Sustainability:**
Evidence that the adoption of active learning and evidence-based teaching practices will likely continue beyond the program duration.
- **Readiness and commitment:**
Applicants' readiness and availability to actively participate throughout the course redesign process during the spring semester. This involves attending all sessions and completing course redesign action items between meetings, with implementation planned for the following academic year.
- **Alignment with other University initiatives:**
Consider the proposed course redesign aligned with broader university initiatives. This encompasses the redesign of gateway courses (i.e., introductory courses or a prerequisite), general education courses, major requirements, and multidisciplinary studies. Focus on improvements that bolster student competencies in writing and communication skills.

Application Process

To apply to the Course Redesign Excellence Program, 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 linked below).
- Confirmation of teaching the proposed courses for the academic year 2026-2027.
- Commitment to meeting the expectations, if being accepted into the CRD^x program.
- A support letter from your dean, associate dean, or department head (a Word template for this support letter is provided in the form).

All applications will be submitted via online form (link below) by **5:00 p.m., September 8, 2025**.

Applicants will be notified of their standing in the selection process in early October 2025.

For additional information, contact Ching-Yu Huang, Associate Director for Active Learning Initiatives via chingyu@uga.edu.

**Click here to apply by
September 8, 2025**