



Center for Teaching  
and Learning  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# Active Learning Summer Institute

May 11 – 28, 2027

*“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 2027-2028 academic year. Note that ALSI is designed to align with UGA's May Session, and we strongly discourage teaching concurrently with participation in ALSI.

### Week One: May 11 – 14, 2027

**Tuesday - Friday**  
**1:00 - 4:45 p.m.**

#### **Welcome & Introductions to Active Learning and Course Design**

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.

### Week Two: May 18 – 21, 2027

**Tuesday - Friday**  
**1:00 - 4:45 p.m.**

#### **Assessments: Basics, Planning, and Implementation**

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.

### Week Three: May 25 - 28, 2027

**Tuesday - Friday**  
**1:00 - 4:45 p.m.**

#### **Instructional Choices for Active Learning**

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.



## Expectations

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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.
- Engage in assessment of the effectiveness of your course redesign, in ways discussed during the ALSI.

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).

## Selection Criteria

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The ALSI 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 proposed adoption of active learning and evidence-based teaching practices for the redesigned course will likely be sustained beyond the program duration.
- **Readiness and commitment:**  
Applicants' readiness and availability to actively participate throughout the course design process during the May session. 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

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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 linked below).
- Confirmation of teaching the proposed courses for the academic year 2027-2028.
- Commitment to meeting the expectations, if 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).

All applications will be submitted via online form (link below) by **5:00 p.m., January 14, 2027**.  
Applicants will be notified of their standing in the selection process in early February 2027.

**Click here to apply by  
January 14, 2027**