

Active Learning Workshop Series For Teachers

Learn How
To Teach!

Lecturer: Ching-Yu Huang, Ph.D.

*Center for Teaching and Learning | Associate Director for Active Learning Initiatives
North Instructional Plaza*

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.

How learning works

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.

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.

Assessing 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.