

How do you know if your students are learning what you want them to learn?

You're doing a great job teaching. Are students absorbing the big picture? Are they developing the skills you are emphasizing in your course? Do your assignments tell you what students learn? Could small changes to your course improve student learning?

This faculty-led workshop will help you to tackle these questions. The workshop should be useful whether you are developing a new course, thinking about revising a course you have already taught, or would like to enhance a course you are basically happy with. **All workshop participants will develop at least one easy method to measure student learning in your course that can be immediately implemented.**

During the workshop you will work on course goals and the associated skills that students will acquire if these course goals are met. Some of your colleagues will share examples of goals and associated measurements that they use in their courses. With these examples and your statements in hand, you will then work on assignments as related to your goals, and will leave the workshop with at least one tool you can use in your courses right away.

It will be helpful if you bring a draft of a course idea or syllabus you want to work on or simply identify the course you would like to focus on before beginning the workshop to help focus your work.

Workshop Program

Thursday, August 26th, 11 AM-2 PM

11:00 AM

10 min

Intro, overview of workshop, quick example of successful assessment

In addition to the above list, we will emphasize that you will leave the workshop with tools you can immediately implement in your class to measure student learning without adding a lot of work to your already burdened schedule.

20 min

What are your goals for your course?

5 min We'll begin by very briefly discussing how to identify key goals for your class – most of you will have already thought about this! We'll also talk about why enumerating these goals is useful to help you determine if you are achieving what you would like in your classes.

5 min Participants will choose a class to focus on for the workshop (if you did not already come with one in mind) and identify goals for that class.

10 min Report out: we will share goals with the group.

20 min

What measurable outcomes do you want your students to achieve?

5 min We'll briefly discuss how to turn your goals into outcomes that are easy to measure. Tom Donnelly will provide an example from his class.

15 min Participants will identify easily measured outcomes corresponding to goals developed in the previous exercise. We will use these in the final exercise to guide development of assessment tools for your class.

25 min Examples of easy tools to measure student learning

20 min Speakers share examples:

- Talithia Williams will discuss using i-clickers to get real-time feedback on student learning;
- Wendy Menefee-Libey will discuss developing rubrics to evaluate student writing.
- Cathy McFadden will discuss evaluating student performance on thesis projects.
- Nancy Lape will discuss using projects to identify misconceptions and evaluate students' ability to apply course material to the real world.

5 min Q&A session with the presenters.

12:15 PM

30 min **Lunch break**

12:45 PM

60 min Develop Tools for your own classes

20 min Participants will develop one or more easy methods to assess the outcomes developed in the previous activity.

20 min Small group or pair discussion of assessment tools you have developed; you might refine your tool if desired based on this discussion, or develop an additional tool.

20 min Report out in large group.

5 min **Close**

5 min **Evaluate**

Handouts:

Glossary of terms

Example