



August 2022
Preparing for a Successful Semester

Featured Podcast



First Day of Class Strategies

In one of the early episodes of the Beyond the Podium Podcast, six UF instructors shared some of their best strategies for getting your semester off to a strong start! The tips shared in the episode will provide you with great ideas for fostering personal connections, establishing classroom norms, and more. [Listen Now!](#)

CTE Video Shorts

CTE SHORTS

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CTE Short: Including Humanizing Elements in Your Syllabus with Dr. Michelle Pacansky-Brock

For many instructors, teaching online has opened new opportunities for connecting with students and becoming a more authentic teacher. In her keynote address at the 2022 Interface Conference, Dr. Michelle Pacansky-Brock shared strategies for examining cultural constructs that influence how you approach your classes, relate to your students, and care for yourself.

In our first “CTE Short,” see how Dr. Pacansky-Brock shares several elements within her syllabus that enhance students’ learning experiences!

- Wisdom wall
- Teaching philosophy
- Expectations pact
- Equity statement
- Week 1 success kit
- Michelle’s 7 Tips for Success

[**Watch now**](#)

Featured Workshop

iClicker Cloud

Presented by UFIT Training

iClicker Cloud allows quality engagement in the classroom. It includes both synchronous and asynchronous options including polling, quizzing, and assignments, and integrates with Canvas. Regardless of class size or delivery method, iClicker can help you increase attendance and participation, provide instant feedback, identify misconceptions in real-time, and more.

If you are planning to use iClicker for the first time or if you just need a refresher, this session will help you be ready to go when classes begin.

The training is offered by an iClicker representative and has a variety of sessions, including virtual, face-to-face, and consultations.

Training dates:

July 22 from 9:00-10:30 (virtual)

August 17 from 9:00-10:30 (face-to-face)

August 17 from 12:00-1:30 (face-to-face)

Consultations: August 17 from 10:30-12:00 (face-to-face)

[**Register for iClicker Cloud Training**](#)

Did You Know?

UF Libraries—Access and Resource Sharing

You can reach out to the [**Access and Resource Sharing Department**](#) to request assistance with gathering information and resources. With their wealth of knowledge about Course Reserves and Interlibrary Loans, the team can assist you with making materials available to students (within

copyright and e-resource licensing guidelines). As an added benefit, when you **Sync the Ares System** with your class in Canvas, you can give students direct access to resources in the course!

Helpful Tip

Use “The First Five” to set the stage for thinking

The first five minutes of class serve as an opportunity to capture students' attention and set the tone for the rest of the class session. Whether you choose to use your tried-and-true strategies throughout the semester or keep them on their toes with a variety of opening activities, you can review or introduce content in low-stakes, interesting ways. Here are three short activities to get students ready for learning:

Reflect & Write: Ask students to write a quick note about what they remember from the previous class session, including: something they found interesting, something they may have a question about, and/or an important concept or activity they would share with a classmate who missed the session.

Reflect & Remind: Before they open notebooks, fire up laptops, and unlock phones, invite students to share key points from previous class sessions while you write them on the board.

Connect: Provide students with a relevant discussion prompt. Set a timer and allow them to share their initial ideas with their peers. This starter conversation can lead to richer discussions later on in the class session.

Center for Teaching Excellence: **First Five Minutes**

SPOTLIGHT



2022-2023 Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows

Sponsored by the Associate Provost for Teaching & Technology, the Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows are a group who demonstrate excellence in online teaching. The Fellows provide guidance to members of the UF teaching community who wish to improve their [online courses](#) and complete online course reviews. Fellows also serve as ambassadors and reviewers for the [Pathways Online Course Reviews](#) process. Once the fall semester starts, visit the Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellows page to find the Fellow(s) who serve your college.



Strategy of the Month

Demystify office hours

Office hours are often viewed as a time for students to pop in and ask a question about a concept from class, or to get feedback on a project. Many students aren't aware of the other benefits they can gain by meeting with their instructors during this time. If you're noticing a low rate of office visits, it may be time to do some strategic advertising!

- If you're able, offer both face-to-face and virtual options.
- Remind students verbally about your availability and extend invitations

to
visit
during
office
hours.

- Explore meeting with students at campus locations they're familiar with, like the library or student union.
- Poll students to see if they need to schedule appointments outside of your scheduled window(s).
- Consider whether you want to require at least 1 visit during the

- Highlight some benefits of visiting during office hours, like discussing research opportunities, consulting about career advice within your field, listening about personal issues & accommodations, making connections to academic resources, or simply stopping by to say, "Hi!"
- When students visit, be sure to give them your full attention

and
thank
them
for
coming
by.

Carr, J. (2019, July 10). [Two Tips to Increase Students' Use of Office Hours](#).

Eidinger, A. (2020, September 8). [Maximizing the impact of office hours](#) University Affairs.

Ezarik, M. (2022, May 20). [Survey: Students want connections with professors but may not initiate them.](#)

_Nadworny, E. (2019, October 5). [College students: How to make office hours less scary.](#) NPR.

Nowack, Z. (2021, December 15). [Why I Require Office Hours Visits. The benefits of requiring students to come to office hours](#) (opinion).

*Smith, M., Chen, Y., Berndtson, R., Burson, K. M., & Griffin, W. (2017). “Office hours are kind of weird”: Reclaiming a resource to foster student-faculty interaction. *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching*, 12, 14–29.*



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