



September 2023

Sharpening the Saw

Making sure that you "sharpen your saw" by engaging in professional development is essential. Just like keeping a saw sharp allows it to perform effectively, you can keep your professional edge by continually growing in your discipline and teaching. By always learning, researching, and getting better at what you do, you make sure your methods stay up-to-date, creative, and adaptable to changes in education and the new generation of students. Sharpening the saw helps you bring new ideas to your lessons, use new tech tools, and create a dynamic and exciting learning atmosphere that's good for both you and your students.

STRATEGY



Elevate Your Teaching

Begin a professional growth expedition focused on enhancing teaching strategies. Elevate is CTE's latest self-paced opportunity for professional advancement, tailored to aid all faculty during their career progression. This includes both new educators navigating their early semesters at UF and seasoned faculty. By engaging in self-reflection, participants will pinpoint areas for professional development. Afterward, they will collaborate with a CTE staff member who will help craft a personalized roadmap to bolster their professional growth aspirations. Register for Elevate today! For questions regarding Elevate, please contact [Michael Barber](#).

[Register Here](#)

FEATURED PODCAST



In this episode of the Teaching Beyond the Podium Podcast, Matt Gitzendanner, Ph.D., discusses HiPerGator, the University of Florida's supercomputer, which ranks 3rd among university supercomputers in the nation. Listen to find out how you can use HiPerGator in your research and in your classes!

[Listen here!](#)

AI Tip of the Month

If your professional development goals include learning more about AI, UF offers support for faculty and staff who want to learn more about AI. Some campus-wide opportunities include:

[UF Professional and Workforce Development](#)

AI courses are offered in 1-hour overviews or 4-hour in depth sessions. They cover topics like [Fundamentals of AI](#), [Ethics of AI](#), and AI courses for specific fields! These courses are available for free to UF faculty & staff.

[Practicum AI – UFIT Research Computing](#)

Coming this fall! UFIT Research Computing will offer a hands-on AI curriculum to help faculty explore applied AI.

UF HR Keep Growing – Artificial Intelligence

UF HR provides basic trainings for getting started with using AI in everyday work.

CITT Tech Bytes

Tech Bytes offers “bite sized” sessions on technologies for enhancing teaching and learning. Sessions about [Generative AI to Enhance Teaching](#) and [Adapting Assessments with AI in Mind](#) are recorded! Stay tuned for more offerings!

CTE Workshops

In addition to offering two [Faculty Learning Communities about AI for Teaching & Learning](#), the Center for Teaching Excellence will offer workshops in the fall semester. There are also AI-focused [Teaching Beyond the Podium Podcasts](#) including Practical Ways to Teach AI with Jasmine McNealy, Making AI Accessible for All with Joel Davis, and AI in Humanities with Elani Bozia.

CTE Awards

Congratulations to the August Passport to Great Teaching completers! To participate in the Passport to Great Teaching program, visit the [Center for Teaching Excellence's website](#).

Certificates:

Great Teaching Certificate

-Lindsey Telg

Great Teaching Certificate: TA Edition

-Madison Moore

CIRTL Associate Certificate

-Rebecca Koerner



Register for the First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA)

The Center for Teaching Excellence offers the First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA) workshop series throughout the year. This series is designed for faculty in their first few years of teaching at UF. Learn how to create a great learning experience for your students while saving time and frustration; we invite you to adapt and use the strategies that are right for you.

Fall 2023

Wednesdays, October 11 - November 15 | 2:00 - 4:00pm ET

Virtual

To attend virtually please register by 10/4 @ 12pm EST

[Register Here](#)

Helpful Tip

Creating a Welcoming Environment

Creating a welcoming classroom environment at the beginning of the semester sets the tone for the students' academic experience and can significantly impact their learning, engagement, and overall success. Here are a few strategies you can use to create a positive climate:

-Get to know your students and provide opportunities for them to get to know each other. Short surveys are a great way to get to know your students as individuals while icebreakers will help build a sense of community and make students more comfortable participating in class discussions and group activities.

-Be friendly and present. Arrive a few minutes early to greet students as they come in and stay a few minutes after class to answer questions. Invite students to office hours to “meet the instructor.” Show your enthusiasm for the course by telling students why you are interested in the subject matter and share your personal experiences. This can make you more relatable and approachable.

-Share your expectations and stories of student success. Clearly communicate your expectations for class participation and the type of learning environment you aim to create. Instead of focusing on stories of how difficult the course will be, share stories of how students have been successful in the past. This shows students you believe in their capacity to succeed.

-Ensure course materials are accessible. Provide materials well in advance and make sure all students, regardless of their ability, can successfully navigate, use and benefit from it.

-Use inclusive language. Using inclusive language and avoiding assumptions about your students’ backgrounds will create an atmosphere where every student feels respected and represented.

Remember, creating a welcoming classroom environment is an ongoing effort. Regularly assessing the classroom atmosphere and being open to making adjustments based on student feedback will show your commitment to your students’ success and contribute to an ongoing positive atmosphere.

Tech Tip of the Month

With your UF Gatorlink, you have free access to more than 20,000 courses through LinkedIn Learning! Courses are available to improve teaching practices, learn software tools, or understand new trends like AI. You can also leverage LinkedIn Learning in your courses to provide certificates or badges for students that connect to their LinkedIn profiles. During the last year nearly 22,000 hours of courses were watched by UF faculty, students, and staff!

Try out the “My Goals” feature under the “My Learning” tab to customize your course recommendations. You can select key words related to the courses you would like to see in your feed. You can also create a personalized career development plan and set weekly goals to meet milestones on your plan.

Inspire, Ignite, and Innovate with CTE!

We are always looking for fresh voices to lead workshops, share a passion for teaching in our podcast, and engage with audiences at our Interface Teaching Conference. CTE is dedicated to honoring exceptional teaching. If you or someone you know would like to partner with or should be recognized by CTE please email cte@aa.ufl.edu.

FEATURED WORKSHOPS

**ONLINE COURSE REVIEW
WORKING SESSIONS
JOIN US ON ZOOM!**

Monday, 9/11 10:00 am -11:30 am	Monday, 10/9 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Thursday, 9/14 8:30 am - 10:00 am	Thursday, 10/12 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Wednesday, 9/20 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Wednesday, 10/18 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

EXEMPLARY COURSE
HIGH QUALITY COURSE
QUALITY COURSE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UF + QUALITY MATTERS

CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions!

Has your Department Chair told you, "It's your turn! You're up for an online course review this semester?" Are you unsure what this even means or how to begin?

Join the CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions! Our dedicated Course Quality team members are here to help you navigate the review process, enhance your instructor self-review, and secure your course designation. Let's talk about how applying the UF+QM rubric reflects your course design and instructional practices as you create exceptional learning experiences!

These flexible virtual drop-in sessions are an opportune time to ask questions about your review or work alongside other instructors to complete your review prior to the closing dates of cohorts.

It doesn't matter where you are in the process, it's more fun to work together! Bring a friend! Like any good party, you can drop in when it's convenient and leave early to prepare for your next class. We hope to see you there!

The dates and times are as follows:

- Monday, 9/11, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
- Thursday, 9/14, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
- Wednesday, 9/20, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

- Monday, 10/9, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
- Thursday, 10/12, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
- Wednesday, 10/18, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Join us on zoom.

DID YOU KNOW?

Getting the Most from Student Evaluations

Student evaluations, although they have limitations, can be a great source for reflecting on your teaching. Students experience your courses in unique ways, and their feedback can shed light on aspects of your teaching that you might not have considered. Here are two tips to help you get the most from your student evaluations: (1) Consider how you can [increase the response rates](#), such as providing a few minutes in class for the evaluation or explaining why the evaluations are important to you. Doing so can help you receive more accurate feedback, avoiding the extremes when only disgruntled or high-achieving students respond. (2) [Opt in for a midterm evaluation](#) so you can receive feedback in time to make changes that can increase student satisfaction.

SPOTLIGHT

Survey Tools for Non-Research

Zoom Webinar

Dive into the world of Microsoft Forms and Google Forms in this one-hour live web-training and master the creation, modification, distribution, and management of surveys and forms using your UF cloud account.

This interactive session will guide you in constructing and customizing your own surveys, and help you understand the nuances of sections and branching for a personalized survey experience. Furthermore, you will

acquire the knowledge for successful survey distribution and how to visualize and export participant responses.

September 12th: 2:00 -3:00 PM

October 17: 2:00 -3:00 PM

November 15: 2:00 -3:00 PM

December 6: 2:00 -3:00 PM

[Register for Survey Tools for Non-Research](#)

More info: <https://training.it.ufl.edu/calendar/>

September Workshops

Internationalizing Your Curriculum through the SDGs

Thursday, September 7, 2023 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Instructor: Natalie Coers

Engage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to explore how this interdisciplinary framework offers disciplinary connections to local and global challenges, as well as understand the role higher education plays in the achievement of these goals. [Register here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Reviewing Student Resumes & Practicing Virtual Interviews:

Quinnia AI Tool for Faculty

Instructor: Tiffany Jenson & Jessica Hendrick

Friday, September 8, 2023 | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

If you teach a course that is career-focused for students, this session is for you. In partnership with the UF Career Connections Center (UF CCC), this session will overview a new artificial intelligence tool (called "Quinnia") which reviews student resumes and suggests formatting options and

content/industry specific-improvements. the UF CCC has literally fed thousands of resumes into the tool to establish professional baselines for recommendations. Quinncia also allows students practice virtual interviews in a video space that analyzes their body position, eye contact, rate of speech, resume-based responses, and overall quality of responses to a virtual interviewer. This fully UFIT tested and licensed AI Tool for Faculty is currently being rolled out in phases to select faculty with the UF Career Connections Center. Come check out this fantastic innovation to provide students personalized feedback on their resume and support the development of interviewing skills! [Register here](#).

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account](#).

Trying to Manage that Long List of Articles You Should Read?

Monday, September 11, 2023 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Instructor: Mickie Swisher

Is your list of articles that you should read far too long? Many of us face this dilemma because you do not have the time to read every publication relevant to your work. This session will focus on ways to make your reading more productive. First, we will explore ways of identifying articles that are the best matches to the information you need based on a critical assessment of the content in the abstract. Second, we will discuss ways of assessing the degree to which an article focuses on new, robust research questions. Third we will look at some ways of assessing the reliability and validity of the conclusions the author(s) reach based on some fundamentals of research design. You can make these evaluations relatively quickly and get a good assessment of whether you should take the time to read an article in detail. [Register here](#).

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account](#).

How We Learn: Teaching Strategies that Maximize Learning

Wednesday, September 13, | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Instructor: Michael Barber

Virtual

We talk a lot about teaching techniques, and the goal of great teaching is

to help students learn. What do we know about how adults learn? How can understanding learning make you a better teacher? This workshop explores the science behind adult learning and outlines strategies you can use to maximize learning. [Register here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Creating Global Classrooms Through Virtual Exchange

Friday, September, 15, 2023 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM EDT

Instructor: Carrie Martins

Virtual

Join this workshop to discover how to turn your class into a global classroom. Through virtual exchange, faculty can connect their UF classes with students and faculty abroad to collaborate on assignments, acquire global perspectives on course-related material, and develop intercultural competence skills. In the 2021-2022 academic year, over 1,500 UF students took courses that incorporated international virtual exchange activities in a variety of disciplines. This workshop will help you discover different types of virtual exchange projects and connect you to trainings and resources to help get you started. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Level up your lectures!

Friday, September, 15, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT

Instructor: Kimberly Heal

Virtual

Lecturing continues to be the primary mode of teaching in higher education. In this workshop, we will discuss what research shows are the advantages and limitations of lecturing. Come learn practical suggestions that will help you leverage the power of lectures and take your presentations to the next level. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Humanizing your Course

Monday, September, 18, 2023 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT

Instructor: Joslyn Ahlgren

Virtual

Humanizing is a student-centered mindset that involves recognizing and supporting the non-cognitive components of learning. Humanizing integrates elements of Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning and Universal Design for Learning. In a humanized course, faculty intentionally cultivate an inclusive learning environment that fosters psychological safety and trust and forms connections that grow into relationships and a community. With an emphasis on presence, empathy, and awareness, faculty become warm demanders and students apply themselves at a higher level. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Make It Global: Curriculum Internationalization

Wednesday, September, 20, 2023 at 9:30 - 10:30 AM EDT

Instructor: Paloma Rodriguez

Virtual

Join this workshop to learn how to enhance your courses with international case studies, activities, and perspectives. This workshop will also expose you to best practices, such as international virtual exchange, and useful frameworks (i.e., the UN Sustainable Development Goals) that can be used to infuse international concepts and activities into any discipline. The session will provide an overview of relevant data on the attitudes and beliefs of UF students towards global issues and intercultural communication that you can use to fine tune your teaching, and you will also receive a self-assessment tool to measure the internationalization of your current courses. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Explore Opportunities to Teach with UF Honors

Thursday, September, 21, 2023 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM EDT

Instructor(s): Melissa Johnson & Tehquin Forbes

Virtual

Learn more about the various opportunities to teach with UF Honors! Standard fall / spring course offerings include honors sections of UF-approved courses, 1-credit courses focusing on a central book or artistic medium, and signature seminars based on cutting edge research. Experiential opportunities include early arrival course-based camps for first-year students and our Uncommon Classrooms designed around unusual topics with cities, places, and natural landscapes serving as the classroom. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Empowering Student Researchers: Mastering Citations and Presentation Success

Monday, September, 25, 2023 at 2:30 - 4:00 PM EDT

Instructor(s): Frederick Kates & Claire Weitz

This workshop empowers instructors with tools and strategies to engage students in research, preparing them for conference presentations and fostering academic and professional development. We will focus on the critical aspect of citation management, providing hands-on guidance to download and utilize free open-source reference management software. This software facilitates effective organization, storage, retrieval, citation, and sharing of references. In addition, the workshop features successful student research presentations, explores ideas for utilizing secondary data, and offers links to video tutorials for seamless integration into your courses. [Register Here.](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Creating Connections with Students Online

Wednesday, September, 27, 2023 | 1:30 - 2:30 PM EDT

Instructor(s): Tiff Jenson & Claire Weitz

Virtual

Often online faculty struggle with getting acquainted with their students amongst limited face-to-face interactions, so how would you establish

personal connections? This workshop discusses proven ways to creating meaningful interaction with the remote instructor. A few examples: include clever introductions of yourself, humanize your course, provide weekly overviews, personalize content, utilize cooperative learning, enable real-time communication, incentivize learning with rewards, and emphasize a bottom line. Join the conversation at #InclusiveTeaching. [Register Here](#).

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account](#).

Creating Global Classrooms Through Virtual Exchange

Thursday, September 28, 2023 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

Instructor: Carrie Martins

Virtual

Join this workshop to discover how to turn your class into a global classroom. Through virtual exchange, faculty can connect their UF classes with students and faculty abroad to collaborate on assignments, acquire global perspectives on course-related material, and develop intercultural competence skills. In the 2021-2022 academic year, over 1,500 UF students took courses that incorporated international virtual exchange activities in a variety of disciplines. This workshop will help you discover different types of virtual exchange projects and connect you to trainings and resources to help get you started. [Register Here](#).

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account](#).

Cultural Differences in Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication

Friday, September, 29, 2023 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM EDT

Instructor: Marina Klimenko

Virtual

Human communication can be achieved through vocal (language) and non-vocal modalities (e.g., facial expressions, gestures, body posture, etc.). Although, there are universal principles that guide all human communication, notable cultural differences still exist and may lead to communication breakdown between people of different cultural background, even if they communicate using the same language. Some of the notable cultural differences that may affect human communication

rules are degree of cultural individualism (vs collectivism), high (vs low) context and masculine (vs feminine) societal values (Geert Hofstede). In my talk, I will elaborate on these three cultural dimensions (individualism, high/low context and masculinity), and explain how/why they may influence human communication styles. Finally, I will discuss potential negative consequences that stem from inappropriate application of cultural communication rules by non-native speakers. This talk should be particularly useful for instructors and mentors who collaborate/teach culturally diverse groups of students.

[Register Here](#)

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. [Create an account.](#)

Upcoming CIRTl Workshops

CIRTl classes fill up fast. Please register today to secure your spot.

Writing an Effective Teaching Philosophy Statement Section 2 Wednesdays, Sept. 13 & 27

Draft a peer-reviewed teaching philosophy statement that reflects your teaching beliefs and experiences in this two-part workshop. Cap: 50. Registration opens Monday, August 14. [Learn more and Register.](#)

TAR Express: A Teaching-as-Research Very Short Course September 13 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT

Explore how you can create, test out, and assess a new approach to your teaching in this short course designed to walk participants through the basis of CIRTl's "Teaching-as-Research" concept. Through Teaching-as-Research (TAR), future faculty can apply their scientific research knowledge to ask and answer a question about teaching and learning. In this three-part short course, participants will learn about and workshop different components of a TAR project, and in between sessions they will have the opportunity to receive one-on-one coaching from course instructors. [More info here.](#)

Teaching Discomfort: Facilitating Challenging Discussions in the Classroom

Thursdays, Sept. 21 & 28

Learn best practices on navigating challenging classroom discussions in this two-part workshop. No cap. Registration opens Monday, August 14. [Learn more and Register.](#)

The College Classroom

Tuesdays, Sept. 26 - Dec. 12

Get an introduction to key learning principles and the basics of effective, evidence-based teaching practices in this 12-week course about teaching in the college classroom. No cap. Registration opens Monday, August 14. [Learn more and Register.](#)

Beyond participation: Inclusive Perspectives on Student Engagement and Feedback

Thursdays, Sept. 28 & Oct. 5

Explore inclusive teaching and active learning frameworks in order to develop practices and class policies that support student engagement in this two-part workshop. No cap. Registration opens Monday, August 14. [Learn more and Register.](#)

University of Colorado Center for Teaching and Learning Book Club: "Teaching as if Learning Matters"

Wednesdays, Sept. 20 - Oct. 25

Join this University of Colorado Boulder teaching and learning book club to read and discuss *Teaching as if Learning Matters: Pedagogies of Becoming by Next-Generation Faculty*, an edited volume of essays from graduate students and recent PhDs reflecting on their teaching development and practice. Discussions will center around the text as well as ways we can apply this understanding in our own classrooms and university lives. This book club meets online in Zoom and is open to participants from other CIRTl Network institutions. [Learn more and Register](#)

[View the full list of CIRTL workshops here.](#)



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