



A monthly newsletter offering tips, strategies and workshops for great teaching

February 2024

Inspiring Continuous Improvement in Teaching and Learning

This month we offer you a wealth of resources aimed at enhancing your teaching and learning journey. In this edition, we delve into the intricacies of creating an elevated educational experience, focusing on the critical elements that contribute to a high-quality online course. Tune in to our podcast episode as we explore the nuances of the online course review process, shedding light on key highlights that can transform your teaching approach. Discover the art of aligning learning objectives with course components and explore the innovative use of generative artificial intelligence to refine objectives and design authentic assessments. Additionally, we share insights on leveraging elements of the Quality Matters rubric to elevate your courses from great to outstanding. Uncover the power of midterm evaluations and learn how they can be a catalyst for something truly extraordinary. Join us on this journey as we empower you with tools and strategies for an enriched teaching and learning experience.

FEATURED PODCASTS

INSIGHTS & PERSPECTIVES ON COURSE DESIGN AND EVALUATION



Brooke Brammer and Dr. Oliver Grundmann



Insights & Perspectives on Course Design and Evaluation

This month's featured guests, Brooke Brammer and Oliver Grundmann, discuss the importance of communication and collaboration in the course design process and share strategies for effective course design and evaluation. They highlight the importance of incorporating engaging assignments while explaining clearly to students what constitutes responsible use of artificial intelligence for learning. Peer evaluation, course reviews, and student feedback can be used as resources for continuous improvement in individual courses and across instructional units. The conversation touches upon the course review process and how to infuse content with personal teaching styles and learning objectives.

Listen here!

STRATEGY

Create alignment in your course using course level objectives and module level objectives

How do you make sure that your students are learning and mastering course content at the desired level? Learning objectives go all the way back to the 1950's and we're still talking about them today because this classic tool of course design is simple, observable, and most importantly, measurable.

You've probably noticed that this month's newsletter is all about the updated UF Quality Online Course Rubric, but did you know that the most important standards in the rubric require alignment between course-level and module-level objectives? When these components are aligned, instructors and faculty can clearly identify the purpose of a learning activity or assessment before implementing it into the curriculum. Precise objectives help students clearly see the purpose behind the activities and assessments of a course, and they will be more willing to put effort into it.

However, when these components are not aligned, students might rightfully complain that the test did not have anything to do with what was covered in class. Or instructors might feel that even though students are earning a passing grade, they haven't really mastered the material at the desired level.

These are the six Quality Matters standards that directly impact alignment:

- QM 2.1 The course-level learning objectives describe outcomes that are measurable.
- QM 2.2 The module/unit-level learning objectives describe outcomes that are measurable and consistent with the course-level objectives.
- QM 3.1 The assessments measure the achievement of the stated learning objectives.
- QM 4.1 The instructional materials contribute to the achievement of the

stated learning objectives.

QM 5.1 The learning activities help learners achieve the stated learning objectives.

QM 6.1 The tools used in the course support the learning objectives.

These six standards form the backbone of a course review, and as a matter of fact, a course review can't even be completed if standards 2.1 and 2.2 are not met! If you know your course needs an upgrade, this is a great place to start. Clear, specific, observable, and measurable objectives encourage intentionality in your course design, create alignment with course goals or outcomes, and are the hallmark of a quality course.

Al Tip of the Month

Make sure your learning objectives are aligned and SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound with the help of a generative AI tool.

Define your course-learning outcomes: Use ChatGPT (or similar generative AI) to help you write your course-level objectives, keeping in mind any programmatic or relevant industry standards in your discipline that apply to your course.

Building and aligning your course-level learning objectives with your module-level learning objectives: Once you are satisfied with your course-level learning objectives, you can ask your preferred Al tool to help you write your module-level objectives. You can copy and paste the course-level learning objectives specified by your department and ask ChatGPT to write, scaffold, and align the module-learning (or unit-level) objectives.

Generating Measurable Criteria: Al tools can assist you in formulating specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound criteria for each learning objective. This ensures that objectives are aligned with the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy and quantifiable, facilitating effective assessment and evaluation of student performance.

Student-friendly language: If you have established your SMART course-level and module-level objectives, but you need to make sure that the language is learner-friendly, you can ask ChatGPT to help you revise the language in your objectives to make sure your learners understand what they will need to achieve to demonstrate mastery.

PASSPORT AWARDS

Congratulations to the January Passport to Great Teaching completers! To participate in the Passport to Great Teaching program, visit the Center for Teaching Excellence's website.

Badges

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)

-Emily Tobin, Analiz Faife Casas, and Mohammed Gbadamosi.

Cultural Competencies

-Gheysar Niknam

Digital Literacy

-Gheysar Niknam

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

-Joshua Higdon

Global Learning

-Paola Uparela, Cyntrice Thomas, Kole Odutola, Juan Andrade, Jeanette Andrade, Misti Sharp, Heather Stark, and Christine Wegner.

Great Online Teaching

-Gheysar Niknam

Student Focused Teaching

-Lauren Douma, Karen Schofield

Certificates

CIRTL Associate Certificate

-Analiz Faife Casas, Mohammed Gbadamosi

Global Teaching & Learning Certificate

-Amy Parziale, Gloria Kim, Harold Knowles, and Luis Mejia Puig.

Great Online Teaching Certificate

-Gheysar Niknam

Great Teaching Certificate

-Sandra Bechtel, Analiz Faife Casas

Great Teaching Certificate: TA Edition

-Omeed Mirbod

Great Teaching for New Faculty Certificate

-Leandra Merz

Principles of Inclusive Teaching Certificate

-Tatiana lakovleva

HELPFUL TIP

Make the Most of your GatorEvals Midterm Evaluations

It might not be a surprise that one of the most underutilized tools available to UF instructors is the GatorEvals Midterm Evaluations. Approximately one-third of the way through the semester, instructors receive an invitation to "Opt-in" to use this valuable tool. These evaluations create a summary report with student feedback, offering opportunities to enhance your students' learning experience as the semester progresses.

Instructors can utilize this student feedback data to make reasonable updates and "demonstrate ongoing changes and improvements based on constructive student feedback in the ongoing term" (UF 11.4). Comparing the responses in your midterm evaluations with your final evaluation is a

great way to showcase your commitment to continuous improvement!

Online instructors participating in the course review process can upload the summary report to the review form and verify that specific standard UF 11.4 is present in your course.

This guide and video will walk you through accessing the evaluations and looking over the results.

TECH TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking to score all the points in the Accessibility category of the UF Quality Online Course Rubric? Scan your course content for accessibility issues and get guidance on correcting them by enabling the Universal Design Online content Inspection Tool (UDOIT, pronounced "you-do-it"). Enable UDOIT by going to Settings in your Canvas Course, selecting the Navigation tab, click the 3 dots next to UDOIT, choose "Enable", then click the "Save" button. You can now access UDOIT in the course sidebar. For additional accessibility tips, you can access the Ally Accessibility Report in the "Instructor Tools" of your Canvas course.

FEATURED PROGRAM



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! 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.

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! Find us online here.

February Dates:

Monday, 2/5/2024 1:303:00

pm • Tuesday, 2/13/2024

2:00

3:30

pm

Wednesday, 2/21/24 9:00

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10:30 am

Thursday, 2/29/24 9:00

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10:30

am



First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA) Spring Dates

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. Spring dates:

Wednesdays, February 28 – April 3, 2024 (registration closes February 21, 2024 @ 12pm)

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Zoom

Apply Here!

SPOTLIGHT:

TEACHING SPARKS SERIES: Creating An Environment for Learning:

Objectives, Feedback, and Collaboration

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Instructor: Jennifer Parker

ONLINE

Let's talk about the essentials around learning objectives, feedback, and collaboration in the classroom. Hear about methods for communicating and personalizing learning, integrating accountable talk and accountability in our coaching conversations, and facilitating cooperative learning experiences that work. Sharing ideas, resources, and best practices across the session will be encouraged and promoted. Part of the Teaching Sparks Webinar Series.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Design a Great Online Course
Rolling start, registration ends March 15th, course ends March 28th
Instructor: Lupita Eyde-Tucker
ONLINE – Asynchronous

This workshop will walk you through the planning stages of creating an online course. Practical how-to guidance coupled with "create-your-course" worksheets will help you move through your course development efficiently.

While the Design workshop is at-your-own-pace, your facilitator is available through Zoom, email, or discussion forum to answer questions and provide feedback. Coupled with the strategies from Build and Teach workshops, this course will guide you towards earning Quality, High Quality or Exemplary designation for you and your course.

When you complete this workshop, you will be able to:

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1. Plan
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your

online

course

using

"backward

design."

2. Identify

features

of

quality

course

design

using

the

UF

Quality

Online

Course

Rubric.

3. Align

your

course

objectives,

assessments,

content,

and

learning

activities

to

create

a

course

map.

4. Experience

an

online

course

from

the student's perspective.

5. Estimate

the

time

it

will

take

you

to

create

the

content

for

one

module.

Expect to spend approximately 8-9 hours reviewing the materials and completing the worksheets.

Register Here

AWARDS

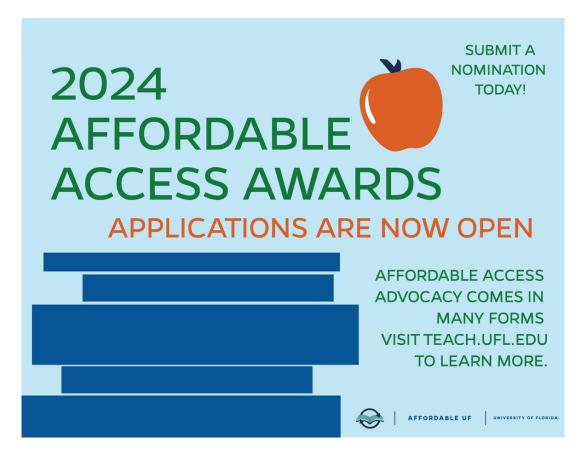


Rising Star Award Applications Due: Feb. 20, 2024

Applications are now open for the 2024 Rising Star Award, a prestigious

recognition of faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to ongoing educational improvements and excellence. This is your chance to shine and showcase your dedication to enhancing your teaching skills and making a lasting impact on our educational community. **Applications are due on February 20, 2024.**Learn more about the award requirements and apply on our website.

Apply Here!



Affordable Access Award Nominations Due by Feb. 26

Do you know a person or team who has gone above and beyond to increase student access to affordable course materials? Nominate them for an Affordable Access Award! The Affordable Access Award recognizes faculty and staff who demonstrate innovation and excellence in support of textbook affordability. To be eligible for this award, nominees must demonstrate a commitment to textbook affordability by creating, adapting, or adopting low- or no-cost course materials, or advocating for their use.

Self-nominations as well as nominations submitted by fellow colleagues (e.g., a faculty member, staff member, or administrator) are accepted.

Nominations must be submitted by February 26th, 2024

Nominate Here!



The AI in Teaching and Learning Awards! Due Feb. 26

We are thrilled to announce the AI in Teaching and Learning Awards, an exciting new opportunity for educators pioneering the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning at the University of Florida! The Center for Teaching Excellence, AI2 Center, and the Center for Instructional Technology & Training are joining forces to honor and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by UF educators in the field of AI.

There are five awards categories:

AI Educator of the Year

- Al Course Award
- AI Teaching Integration Award
- AI
 Across
 the
 Curriculum
 Ambassador
- AI Rising Star

Nomination forms are due on February 26, 2024. Learn more about the nomination categories and apply on our website.

Learn More Here!



FIVE AWARD CATEGORIES RECOGNIZING ONLINE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

- Going the Extra Mile
- Commitment to Excellence
- Service Mindset
- Creative Problem-Solving & Ingenuity
- Community-Building



Visit: teach.ufl.edu/awards-trailblazers/

Trailblazers: Online Education Professional Awards Due by Feb. 26

The Trailblazers in Online Education Professional Awards recognize online

support professionals who lead the way in designing engaging learning environments, facilitating best-teaching practices, and integrating cutting-edge technology to enhance course development and increase student engagement and learning. Recipients will be recognized at the annual Interface Conference.

Learn More Here!

Did You Know

The Center for Instructional Technology and Training has another tool to add to your teaching toolkit! This month, the Tech Bytes Tech Chefs will explore using artificial intelligence for creating authentic assessments. See the event information and registration below to elevate your prompt generation!

Al Prompt Cookbook: Elevating Generative Al Recipes to Encourage Authentic Assessments

Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 2:00 - 3:00 ET via Zoom



February Workshops

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for these workshops. Create an account.

Creating Global Classrooms Through Virtual Exchange

2/7/2024 | 1:55 PM - 2:55 PM

Instructors: Carrie Martins and Ana Porras

ONLINE

Join this workshop to hear from Dr. Ana Porras, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, about her experiences implementing virtual exchange (VE) with a partner at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia. Begin exploring ideas for your own VE project and discover the trainings and resources available at UF to help you turn your class into a global classroom.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Empowering Education: Enhancing Career Development with Quinncia's AI Resume Review and Mock Interview Tool 2/8/2024 | 10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

Instructors: Jessica Hendrick and Tiff Jenson

ONLINE

Learn the functions of Quinncia, an AI resume review and mock interview tool, available to faculty and students through the Career Connections Center. This workshop will go over the basic functions of the tool and also provide tips for incorporating its use into your classroom.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Exploring Effective Learning Styles: A Conversation with Diverse Learners

2/9/2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM EST Instructor: Ellen Zimmermann

IN PERSON

Learning Objectives:

Identify strategies that learners across the continuum learn best in the clinical setting Apply one of the teaching styles identified by the learner panelists Describe the qualities of an exemplary teacher as identified by the learner

Panelists: Jackson Brunner, Erika Wert, Rachel Baker, Matt Falasa, Adrian Alonso

This workshop will be offered in person at the Communicore Building, room C1-009 and via Zoom.

Register here.

panelists

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this

workshop. Create an account.

Cross-College Collaborations for Student Learning with Scholarship in Mind

2/14/2024 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Instructors: Becky Piazza and Olga Ensz Location: 201 Bryant Space Science Center

Discover ways to design student-centered learning activities that transcend disciplinary boundaries while uniting learners with a common objective. Prepare your students for real-world challenges with the invaluable skill of navigating complex problems alongside peers from other fields. In this session, we will share a case study example of a successful interdisciplinary learning event. Then, we will provide time for workshop participants to incubate ideas for interdisciplinary collaborations between their courses. Throughout the workshop we will emphasize how research on teaching and learning can emerge naturally from your teaching practice and can become even more creative when working with faculty from other departments.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Teaching Reflection in Practice
Monday, February 19, 2024 at 12:00 - 1:00 PM EST
Instructor: Elisa Sottile
ONLINE

For the last few years, educators have been increasingly called upon to facilitate the development of their learners' self-directed learning skills. Varied agencies require self-directed learning experiences as part of their curriculum and expect faculty to provide feedback on their learners' reflection skills.

Some instructors have training on providing feedback on learner reflections done through written journaling. Fewer have training on guiding and assessing reflection in the moment.

This session will provide planning and preparation tips for teaching reflection in practice. It will present the challenge of assessing the reflector's reflective skills while keeping assessment of the reflector's performance separate.

Register here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Faculty Resilience and Well-Being 2/21/2024 | 1:55 PM - 3:55 PM

Instructor: Michael Barber

Location: 201 Bryant Space Science Center

Join us for an enlightening two-hour workshop designed to empower you in enhancing resilience and well-being. In this interactive session, you will develop personalized strategies and discover effective ways to navigate the stressors of academic life. Engaging in open discussions and collaborative activities, you will have a platform to share experiences, fostering a culture of mutual understanding. As a tangible outcome, you will leave the workshop with concrete action plans, ready to implement immediate changes in your daily routines and work environment to counteract burnout. This workshop is a dedicated space for you to invest in your well-being, build connections, and develop practical solutions for a more sustainable and fulfilling professional life.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Getting Started with Al In Teaching and Learning: Research, Writing, and Critical Evaluation

2/23/2024 | 10:40 AM - 12:10 PM

Instructors: Jennifer Parker and Michael Barber

ONLINE

How can we harness the power of AI to improve productivity and challenge the critical thinking skills of our students? Learn more about how you can

use generative AI for searching, creating a syllabus, modifying learning objectives, crafting an email, or drafting a project narrative. Examine ways to build in the use of AI by students without losing the robust intentions of our lessons. Explore examples of embedding AI in drafts for writing, using critical evaluation frameworks, and documenting and sharing the research process through dialogue and debate. Part of the Getting Started with AI in Teaching & Learning series.

Part 2 of a 4-part series.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Globalizing your course with African studies and languages 2/29/2024 | 10:40 AM - 11:40 AM

Instructor: Leandra Merz

ONLINE

This workshop will highlight some benefits of globalizing a course and introduce methods of incorporating African studies and languages. I will give examples of how I have integrated activities, case studies, and course material related to African studies and languages. I will also provide resources that can support integration of African studies and languages. While the examples will be specific to Africa, the concepts can be applied broadly to any region of the globe.

Register Here.

Please Note: you must have a Passport Portal account to register for this workshop. Create an account.

Upcoming CIRTL Workshops

The CIRTL network offers many free online events and courses to promote teaching and learning in STEM higher education. All UF graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and staff are welcome to register for any CIRTL

offerings. To view all upcoming events, please visit the CIRTL events page below. CIRTL classes fill up fast. Please register today to secure your spot.

Caring for Yourself as an Instructor: Applying Rest in the Classroom February 8, 2024 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am CST

Develop strategies for self-care and rest as an instructor in academia in this one-part workshop on February 8. Register starting January 8. Learn more and register here.

Building Neuroinclusive Learning Environments: Best Practices to Support and Empower Neurodiverse Learners in STEM February 15, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CST

Learn neurodiversity basics, explore accessible approaches to teaching and learning, and revise a specific component of your own teaching in this short course. Register starting January 8. Learn more and register here.

Mindset to Mastery: The Inclusive Teaching Course (Spring 2024)

March 5, 2024 @ 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CST

Examine your own identities, values, and experiences to cultivate an inclusive mindset that informs your teaching practices in this 8-week course. Register starting January 29. Learn more and register here.

Re-imagining data: Using arts-based methods for new perspectives in research, teaching and learning

March 11, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT

Explore the creative potential of arts-based research (ABR) to view and understand research and teaching in a new way and from multiple perspectives in this two-part workshop. Register starting February 5. Learn more and register here.

Exploring Teaching Careers at Research Universities with CIRTL Alumni

April 3, 2024 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CDT

Learn about teaching faculty careers in this online panel of CIRTL alumni

who are now junior faculty at research universities. Register starting January 8. Learn more and register here.

CIRTL Network Teaching-as-Research Presentations April 11, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CDT

Hear graduate students and postdocs from across the CIRTL Network share the results of their Teaching-as-Research (TAR) projects in this online presentation session. Register starting January 8. Learn more and register here.

View the full list of CIRTL workshops here.



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