

Faculty Development Plan, 2016-2017

This document outlines the sessions that The Learning House will deliver to Aurora faculty during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Participants should consume the pre-work prior to attending the workshops, which will be held online in Adobe Connect. The session times will be devoted to activities and/or discussion based on the pre-work. As a result, participants should connect using a computer with a microphone so they can fully participate. Headphones are strongly recommended.

If participants have never attended an Adobe Connect session before, it is recommended that you test your connection here prior to entering a session: http://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm.

Session Descriptions

Student Motivation and Engagement

Prework: TBD (will be available no less than 3 weeks prior to the event)
Date/Time: 19 October 2016, 12-1 pm CST
URL: <http://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/r8rvws68e9c/>

Student engagement is critical to the success of any course. To help faculty think through how to foster this in the online classroom, this session explores prominent theories on participation, and how to gain attention, interest, and passion from their students. Participants will examine how social media, video, and other technologies can be used to promote collaborative and cooperative learning methods, experiential and problem-based learning methods, and other novel approaches to student motivation, and will have an opportunity to discuss strategies and suggestions with each other.

Feedback and Practice

Prework: TBD (will be available no less than 3 weeks prior to the event)
Date/Time: 18 January 2017, 12-1 pm CST
URL: <http://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/r96f3xceu8i/>

Providing feedback to students – whether in the form of grades or written comments – is a time-consuming and challenging activity for many faculty. How do you know that your time spent providing feedback will result in better performance by your students? In this session, participants will explore the qualities of effective feedback, and, by the end, will both be able to explain students' need for opportunities for practice as well as identify strategies to assist them in providing meaningful feedback without overloading the grading process.

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In addition, participants will review several common aggregation methods within Moodle's gradebook, and explore various methods in how to provide feedback to students per assignment type.

Discussion Forums

Prework: TBD (will be available no less than 3 weeks prior to the event)
Date/Time: 26 April 2017, 12-1 pm CST
URL: <http://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/r5zxbrsg8he/>

Discussion forums offer rich opportunities for faculty to interact with students, and for students to interact with each other. Used effectively, they can engender provocative discussion, enhance engagement, offer opportunities for ongoing instruction, encourage reflection, and build community. In this session, participants will learn about the affordances of online discussion forums and encounter strategies to incorporate them into their online course.

Participants will also receive a tutorial on the features of Moodle's discussion forums so they are fully prepared to integrate them into their online course.

Rubrics

Prework: TBD (will be available no less than 3 weeks prior to the event)
Date/Time: 25 July 2017, 12-1 pm CST
URL: <http://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/r3dzogeq6sd/>

Rubrics can serve several useful purposes in an online course: they make your expectations clear on assignments, speed up grading, reduce students' grade complaints, and greatly facilitate the teaching of your course by others. In this session, participants will explore the "why" behind developing rubrics, and will leave with several templates that they can implement in their own courses.

Building on the pedagogical principles that participants will have learned in the previous session, they will also get a brief tutorial in utilizing Moodle's rubric editor and understand its integration with the gradebook.