

Call for proposals:

Beyond Grades – Capturing Authentic Learning

DePaul University Teaching and Learning Conference

Friday, May 5th, 2017 | Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120AB

All DePaul faculty and staff members are invited to submit proposals and register for the annual DePaul Teaching and Learning Conference. The theme of this year's conference, "Beyond Grades – Capturing Authentic Learning," invites participants to think about student learning as the primary indicator of teaching effectiveness. Thinking about our own effectiveness as teachers has traditionally been associated with reports of student satisfaction or our own interpretations of how we teach—and not necessarily how and what our students are learning.

There has been a growing demand for us to [shift focus](#) from what we as instructors want to deliver to the outcomes we want our students to obtain as a result of their educational experiences. How do we best identify these outcomes? How do we know when students have met them? And how can we capture students' progress in achieving the outcomes as a result of our teaching practices?

Presentations on this year's theme could also address topics such as:

- Exploring the demands for shifting focus, from delivery to outcomes, in teaching
- Using technology in capturing student learning (e.g., ePortfolios, mobile learning, etc.)
- Supporting students' evaluations of their progress and ownership for their own learning
- Helping students learn how to learn
- Using classroom assessment techniques that can provide insight into your teaching strategies and your students' learning
- Finding the most appropriate techniques to assess your specific learning outcomes

The conference is jointly sponsored by Faculty Instructional Technology Services (FITS) and the Office for Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA). Student Affairs, the University-Center for Writing-based Learning (UCWbL), and Faculty Council's Committee on Learning and Teaching (COLT) contribute to the planning of the conference. The Quality of Instruction Council (QIC) provides financial assistance.

Session Types

We welcome proposals for three types of presentations:

1. [PechaKucha](#) Session - PechaKucha is a way of presenting information in an interactive manner in a short period of time. These sessions will be based on 20 slides that will advance automatically every 20 seconds for a total presentation time of 6 minutes 40 seconds. Multiple PechaKucha proposals will be combined by topic or theme to create a longer session.

PechaKucha Sessions should be proposed when the presenter would like to showcase his/her work or share a provocative or innovative idea.

An example of a PechaKucha could be an English instructor sharing how they used color-coded index cards as a low-tech classroom response system to increase learner engagement and improve final exam scores.

2. 30 Minute Interactive Session - 30 minute interactive sessions are relatively short presentations (15-20 minutes) of teaching methods, tools, or resources with 10-15 minutes set aside for one or more interactive elements.

30 Minute Interactive Sessions should be proposed when the presenter(s) would like to expose participants to new teaching ideas, methods, tools, and/or strategies and guide them through a process of thinking about how they might be able to apply the content being presented in their own teaching contexts.

An example of a 30 Minute Interactive session could be a CDM instructor sharing how they helped students navigate the web-design process through a structured design competition for real nonprofits. Participants would leave the session with ideas for an engaging group assignment competition.

3. 60 Minute Interactive Workshop - 60 minute workshops will be reserved for those who are proposing structured activities to guide participants through a process of thinking about new teaching ideas, methods, tools, and/or strategies AND producing an initial draft of something participants can use in their own teaching.

60 Minute Workshops should be proposed when the presenter(s) have very structured activities in mind that will result in some 'deliverable' that workshop participants will be able to take with them and implement in their own classrooms soon after the conference.

An example of a 60 Minute Workshop could be a Chemistry instructor sharing how they created a video tutorial on common lab mistakes. Participants would learn how they can use the

technique to improve the effectiveness of their face-to-face class time and will leave the session with a rough draft of their own video lessons.

Proposal Components

Proposals should include a session title and a description. In addition to the title and description, the proposal should include the following information:

1. **Fit with conference theme.** Identify your proposal aligns with the assessment of student learning and/or documenting effective teaching.
2. **Learning outcomes.** List the expected outcomes for session participants. What will participants be able to do after participating in this session? Example: "By the end of the session, participants will be able to summarize best practices for using classroom response systems." Need help? Check out TLA's resource page on [writing learning outcomes](#).
3. **Adaptability across disciplines.** Explicitly state how broadly your topic is adaptable—either for colleagues in your discipline, in your school or division, or across the university. Describe how you will guide participants from various disciplines in thinking about how the session topic can be put into practice in their teaching context.
4. **Originality.** Explain how your proposal ties to, builds upon, or diverges from existing research and practices.
5. **Interactivity.** Indicate how you will engage session participants (e.g., small group discussions, demonstrations). Please note that workshop proposals must dedicate at least twenty minutes of the sixty-minute session to planned active learning exercises (beyond time for audience questions) that will engage session participants. *PechaKucha presentations will not be required to have interactive elements.*

Deadline for Proposals

The deadline for proposal submissions is **Monday, January 30th, 2017**. Notification of selection decisions will go out to presenters by Monday, April 3rd, 2017. If your proposal is accepted, you and your co-presenters (if applicable) will be automatically registered for the conference.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be blind-reviewed by faculty volunteers. As you consider presentation topics, please bear in mind the following selection criteria:

- Clarity: Do the outcomes provide a clear, specific description of what participants will learn at the session? Do the title and abstract concisely summarize the session's focus?
- Adaptability: Can the topic be put into practice by conference participants from different disciplines?
- Originality: Does the proposal feature innovative ideas, models, or approaches to teaching?
- Fit: Does the proposal align with the conference theme?
- Interactivity: Does the proposal describe structured learning activities that will engage session participants? *Please note PechaKucha presentations will not be required to have an interactive component.*

Room Considerations

Presentations will take place in smart classrooms, which are equipped with a computer, projector, and Internet connection. Presenters can indicate preference for chairs to be arranged in rows or at round tables.