MISSOURI S&T | Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence

The Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence is excited to release our next Office Newsletter to inform you of our summits, workshops, communities of practices, technology, and other services created to enhance your teaching excellence and professional growth.

Volume 1, Issue 3 (November 2024)

What's in this issue:

ITLC Call for Presentation Proposals

Upcoming Events and Services

End of Semester Student Survey Timeline

Proctoring Exams

What do Students Look for in a Professor?

Canvas New Feature and Checklists?

Have any questions?

ITLC Call for Presentation Proposals:

CAFE is still accepting proposals to present at the third Annual Innovation in Teaching and Learning Conference scheduled for March 13, 2025. Proposals are due by Friday, November 22. Interested presenters can submit a Call for Presentation form at the ITLC website.

Upcoming Events and Services

Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor Summit: Utilizing Student Feedback to Enhance Teaching and Career Development: Wednesday, November 20, from 3 p.m. to 4: 30 p.m. in Havener Center, Ozark Room. Please register if you wish to attend.

Online Teaching Certification Seminar: The next course is scheduled to begin on January 6, 2025, and will run until February 14, 2025. Please enroll through Canvas Catalog.

Online Teaching RE-Certification Seminar: For RE-certification, the next course is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2025, and will run until February 31. To determine

your eligibility to participate in the Online Teaching Recertification Course, please fill out this survey (University login required).

End of Semester Student Survey Timeline

- Nov 13 – 22 – **Instructor** access to add custom questions
- Nov 24 – Dec 8 – **Student access** to surveys, Instructors view survey Response Rates
- Dec 20 – **Instructor access** to results

TIPS FOR INCREASED RESPONSES:

Students can access their end-of-course evaluations by clicking the ***Course Evaluations*** option in their Canvas courses or by using the link sent in their reminder email. To increase your overall response rate on end-of-course evaluations, CAFE recommends the following best practices:

- Briefly remind students in class how important these surveys are for improving the quality of instruction.
- Discuss ways in which the course has improved based on previous feedback.
- One of the most effective and simplest methods is to allow students time in class to complete the surveys. Just set aside about 5 minutes at the end of class. Step out of the room to give them a sense of privacy.
- Offer students a simple reward if the class meets or exceeds a percentage response rate. For example, one professor shared that he provides donuts for his students if the class hits an 80% response rate.

To view your survey response rates beginning Nov 24, login to your Blue dashboard. Survey results will be available on your Blue dashboard when students have access to final grades, Dec 20.

Proctoring Online Exams

Proctoring exams, especially online exams, is always a difficult challenge. For online exams, the University of Missouri System recommends using Honorlock, a record-and-review platform that allows you to proctor online exams through Canvas. Honorlock records students' attempts and flags any suspicious behavior. Honorlock has certain technical requirements for students to meet before they can use it. It is relatively straightforward to configure for most exam situations and offers several useful features, such as locking down the browser, blocking AI tools, and search-and-destroy for leaked exam content. It also works with third-party tools that are integrated into Canvas such as Pearson's Mastering suite or McGraw Hill Connect.

Contact Missouri Online or CAFE for more information on how you can use Honorlock in your course.

What Do Students Look for in a Professor?

When students recommend professors to their fellow students, do they tend to recommend professors based on easiness of grading or likeability? Or do they consider the overall teaching effectiveness of that instructor? ACUE attempted to answer this question in a recent study funded by the Lumina Foundation (Benavides, Lawner, & Snow, 2024). Their findings revealed that students' comments when recommending professors converge into four broad themes (p. 3):

1. Instructional clarity – students respond favorably when communication of content, assignments, and expectations is clear and comprehensible.
2. Student support – students like to know that instructors care about the success and growth of their students and that there are sufficient resources available to assist them in their success.
3. Instructor Attributes - Perceived instructor attributes can positively affect student learning experiences, such as being prepared for class and demonstrating kindness.
4. Active Learning - Students enjoy learning methods that make them feel more engaged and make the learning relevant and interactive.

Although the demographic characteristics of the *students* impacted their relative perception of each of the factors above relative to one another, the demographics of the *instructor* (race, gender, ethnicity, etc.) had no significant impact on student perceptions of the quality of teaching, according to this study (p. 5). For example, students in online/hybrid courses strongly favored instructional clarity and student support over the perceived attributes of the instructor or active learning strategies (p. 6). Latino students placed greater emphasis on student support over other factors (p. 6).

References:

Benavides, P., Lawner, E., & Snow, M. (2024). *Why do students choose to recommend some professors: Understanding student perceptions of instructors through mixed-methods research.* ACUE: Association of College and University Educators. https://acue.org/student-perception-of-instructors/

Canvas New Feature and Checklists?

Canvas has released a new rubric enhancement, making rubrics more usable. For information on the rubric enhancements check out the information sheet - Canvas New Features and Helpful Information - FALL 2024

The End of Semester Checklist includes information like:
- Closing your Canvas Course
- Gradebook - prevent automatic zeros from populating in your new course
- Limiting access to your Canvas Course information after the end of the semester
- Managing Incomplete courses
- Organizing your Canvas Dashboard

Check it out here - Canvas New Features and Helpful Information - FALL 2024

Getting ready for the start of the semester look at this helpful Start of Semester Canvas Checklist

Have Any Questions?

- **CAFE Ask Me Anything hours** are 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every Tuesday. This dedicated time is to answer any questions you may have relating to teaching and learning at S&T. For more information about the Ask Me Anything hours go to the CAFE website.
- **Or if you prefer, email us at cafe@mst.edu or call us at 573-341-6713**