

University College Faculty Needs Assessment

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University College Faculty Needs Assessment

- ❑ **Ongoing Effort** - to better understand undergraduate education at IUPUI.
- ❑ **Online Survey** – Administered to faculty who have taught First-year Seminar (FYS) and/or Gateway courses.
- ❑ **Goal** – provide faculty opportunity to share feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Highlights – Survey Findings

- ❑ **Q1:** Are there curriculum resources you wish were available to assist you in teaching beginning students, and if so what? (n = 51)
- ❑ **Q2:** Other than content aligned with your discipline (e.g., Science) or the theme of your FYS, what are important topics to cover within your course? (n = 60)
- ❑ **Q3:** Please rate how important it would be (ideally) for beginning students to learn content associated with each of the following topics. (n = 67)

Desired Curriculum Resources

Common Learning Modules / Central Hub of Resources

- “It would be helpful to have a "library" of first year seminar syllabi from across campus”.
- “My students would benefit from 1-3 minute reusable learning objects (videos) on the topics of time management, financial literacy, critical thinking, diversity, information literacy, plagiarism, reaching out for support (both individually and professionally), communication skills, and procrastination”.
- “ Maybe an OnCourse site for LC [Learning Community] instructors that offers a folder for each main area that is typically covered in a LC (i.e. time management, financial literacy, etc.). Then we all could upload what we use and get ideas/resources from each other.”

Desired Curriculum Resources

Study and Time Management Resources

- “It's getting students to make time to study and use available resources that's the issue, I think”.
- “The levels of test anxiety I see among my Gateway class students is appalling. They're so terrified of tests that most of them give up and do a minimal amount of preparation to say that "they studied" and "can't take tests”.

Technology Resources

- “...help with digital resources”.
- “Computer classrooms and Smart-boards for each class meeting”.
- “I would like to see University College to teach a basic computer skills class for older returning students as these students sometimes lack the technological skills needed in today's learning environment”.

Desired Curriculum Resources

Other Common Areas

- ❑ **Faculty Support and Mentorship**
- ❑ **College Transition and Motivation Resources**
- ❑ **Critical Thinking Resources**
- ❑ **Reading and Writing Skills Resources**

Important Curriculum Topics

Critical Thinking

- “I try to model and encourage general problem solving techniques and critical thinking. These skills are essential to solving algebra problems, but are also essential to dealing with issues in many areas of life.”
- “I teach, topics related to critical thinking are emphasized. The most important is the idea that studying history is most useful when the student learns to make connections between prior learning and what is being studied.”

Time Management & Study Skills

- “Time management and personal accountability”.
- “Study skills and test-taking skills”.
- “Successful preparation and study habits that are different and needed versus their prior learning experiences (e.g., High School).”

Important Curriculum Topics

Reading and Writing Skills

- “Writing, writing, writing. I spend one module of my Online course and one class session in my in-class course discussing writing. From how to write a thesis statement to defining quality, primary sources of information”.
- “My students are really struggling in writing because they are not able to write using correct grammar, paragraph structure, etc. they have tree page paragraphs, one page sentences. And they continually mix verb tenses in the same sentence”.

Other Common Areas

- ❑ Diversity & Cultural Awareness
- ❑ Academic Culture & Appropriateness
- ❑ Campus Resources
- ❑ Plagiarism / Academic Integrity

Ideal Curriculum Topics

Curriculum Topics	N	Mean (3.00 max)	Std. Deviation
Time Management	66	2.86	.346
Critical Thinking	66	2.82	.461
Goal Setting	65	2.69	.465
Information Literacy and Academic Library	65	2.68	.503
Diversity	64	2.55	.589
Career Exploration	59	2.54	.536
Stress Management	63	2.46	.563
Culture of the University	60	2.43	.593
Networking on Campus	59	2.42	.649
Learning Styles	66	2.38	.674
Financial Literacy	54	2.26	.589
RISE	56	2.14	.699
PULS	58	2.14	.605