

New Instructor Workshop Fall 2007: Grant Task 1.7.3

Executive Summary

Delivered by multiple experienced and enthusiastic presenters, and commended by participants, the New Instructor Workshop resulted in a generally positive initiation for new instructors based on their self-assessment of the workshop activities as well as their personal readiness to engage in instruction. As a group, instructors predominantly valued the activities that occurred in the later stages of the workshop, especially those related to course development, technological integration, and student engagement strategies.

Strengths of the Activity

- The most helpful Day 1 components were the workshop course site and requesting a course.
- The most helpful Day 2 component was incorporating student engagement strategies and assignments and integrating active learning techniques into instruction.
- The most helpful Day 3 component was online resources and tutorials for Learn@UW-Stout.
- After Day 1, 86% were confident to very confident in using Learn@UW-Stout.
- After Day 2, 80% felt confident to very confident with teaching in UW-Stout's digital learning environment.
- After participating in the workshop, 92% of instructors felt confident to very confident with teaching in UW-Stout's digital learning environment.
- Fifty-five percent of participants felt the pace of Day 1 and 2 was just right, and 73% felt the pace of Day 3 was just right.
- All participants felt they were on track or had accomplished what they had hoped to during Day 1, 85% felt they accomplished what they had hoped during Day 2, and 92% felt they accomplished what they had hoped during Day 3.
- After Day 3, participants felt most confident in their ability to setup a laptop in a classroom, identify potential challenges to instruction, and identify formative assessment strategies.
- After the workshop, 95% of instructors felt confident or very confident in their readiness for teaching classes the first week.
- Overall, 80% of participants felt the workshop was good or great.

Opportunities to Improve the Activity

- Forty-one percent of participants felt the pace of Day 1 was too slow.
- Participants felt they weren't given enough time to work on their courses.
- During Day 1, participants felt least engaged during course development and uploading/managing files.
- During Day 2, participants felt least engaged during the library resources/research presentation.
- During Day 3, participants felt least engaged during the laptop station presentation.

Action Plan for Improvement

- Revise evaluation tool to reflect activities.
- Explore reducing workshop days.
- Meet with participants in January.

Action Plan to Evaluate Impact/Sustainability of Intervention

- Track students to determine impact on student retention.