Glossary: The Language of Teaching and Learning

Active Learning
Techniques that actively engage students in learning. These may include inquiry and problem-based learning activities. Examples:

▪ **Hypothesis Generation**: Ask students to generate a hypothesis.

▪ **Brainstorming**: Present an open-ended problem for the class to solve.

▪ **One Minute Question**: Ask students to describe a concept in the reading or lecture that was especially difficult or confusing.

▪ **Sequencing**: Ask students to order a series of events or developments.

▪ **Decision Making**: Have students identify critical junctures and the decisions that they would make at each juncture.

▪ **Concept Mapping**: Have students create a graphic representation of the relationships among concepts.

▪ **Problem Solving**: Present students with real life problems to which they must apply content knowledge and theory.

▪ **Make It Personal**: Ask students to identify a real world example of a particular concept or theory.

Alignment
Ensuring that activities and assessment meet your learning goals.

Assessment
Tools for measuring student progress toward and achievement of your learning goals.

Backward Design
Designing instructional materials by first setting learning goals then determining what outcome would illustrate achieving those goals, and then designing classroom activities to help students meet those goals.

Bloom’s Taxonomy
A hierarchy of six levels of cognition—knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation.

Constructivism
A theory developed by David Ausubel that people learn by constructing conceptual frameworks.

Advancing teaching and learning

The Teaching Center is the go-to place for practical advice about teaching. We can help you:

▪ Successfully market your teaching

▪ Deal with anxiety, challenges to your authority, and other classroom issues

▪ Design innovative courses, deliver scintillating, substantive lectures, and lead stimulating discussions and labs.

▪ Respond appropriately to shy, withdrawn, or disruptive students.

▪ Use technology more effectively.

The Teaching Center offers:

▪ Weekly workshops

▪ Individual consultations

▪ Certification in pedagogy

▪ Observations on your teaching

▪ A library of teaching, job search, and publishing resources

A catalyst for innovation, The Teaching Center

▪ Promotes interdisciplinary

▪ Sponsors research in the science of learning

▪ Supports improvements in the assessment of learning outcomes

▪ Works collaboratively to improve public education through community and school partnerships

To arrange a one-on-one consultation, contact:

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Inquiry Based Learning
Engaging students in the process of exploration.

Learning Goals
What students should know, understand, and be able to do.

Learning Outcomes
Specific, measurable learning goals.

Metacognition
The process through which students monitor and assess their own understanding.

Prior Knowledge
The skills and understandings and misunderstandings that students bring to class.

Problem-Based Learning
An approach to teaching driven by a question or problem, which uses a variety of methods of inquiry to research and address the question.

Rubric
The criteria by which a work will be evaluated.