Benchmarks for Teaching Effectiveness posits that effective teaching involves the alignment of course goals and instructional practices, the creation of motivating and inclusive learning climates, and consistent attention to and reflection on student learning and feedback.



What it looks like Where to look



Goals, Content and Alignments

### Organizes course content and activities around relevant, appropriate, and well-articulated goals

- · Course goals are well-articulated, high quality, relevant to all students, and clearly connected to program or curricular goals
- Content is challenging and innovative or related to current issues and developments in field
- Topics are well-integrated and of appropriate range and depth
- Materials are high-quality, well-aligned with course goals
- Course materials reflect diverse perspectives and promote critical reflection on these diverse perspectives

Instructor: Syllabus (course goals), sample materials (rubrics, assignment sheets, readings), instructor narrative

Peers: : Peer review, program or curriculum map or other documentation

Students: Student survey of teaching, instructor-gathered



Teaching Practices

#### Uses inclusive and effective teaching practices that support learning in all students

- Courses are well-planned and integrated, and reflect commitment to providing meaningful assignments and assessments
- Uses inclusive and effective or innovative methods known to support learning among all students
- In- and out-of-class activities provide opportunities for practice and feedback on important skills and concepts
- Students show high levels of engagement.
- Assessments and assignments are varied and allow students to demonstrate knowledge through multiple modalities

**Instructor:** Syllabus/schedule, sample class activities, assignments and lesson plans, example feedback on student work, Instructor narrative

**Peers:** Peer review, COPUS or other observation tool or protocol **Students:** Student survey of teaching, instructor-gathered feedback



Class Climate

Creates a motivating and inclusive class climate

- Climate fosters motivation, belief in one's abilities and ownership of learning
- Instructor models inclusive language and behavior
- Student feedback on teacher accessibility and interaction is generally positive
- Instructor seeks and is responsive to student feedback

**Instructor:** Syllabus, sample class activities and lesson plans, instructor narrative, reflections on student feedback

Peers: Peer observation. Peer review

Students: Student survey of teaching, instructor-gathered feedback



Achievement of Learning Outcomes

### Consistently attends to student learning and uses it to inform teaching

- Standards for evaluating understanding are clear and connected to program, curriculum, or professional expectations
- Uses formal and informal assessments to gauge student achievement of desired outcomes
- Learning supports success in other contexts (e.g., subsequent courses or relevant non-classroom venues)
- Instructor makes efforts to support learning among all students (e.g., examining possible inequities in performance across groups and making adjustments)

**Instructor:** Sample assessments and rubrics, student work samples, summary or analysis of student performance, instructor narrative

Peers: Peer review

feedback

**Students:** Student Survey of Teaching, instructor-gathered feedback and student reflection or self-assessment of learning



Reflection and Iterative Growth

## Develops teaching over time, in response to student performance, feedback, and professional learning

- Regularly adjusts teaching based on reflection on student learning, within or across semesters
- Examines student performance after making adjustments
- Seeks to improve student achievement of learning goals in teaching or improved equity in outcomes based on past course modifications

**Instructor:** Syllabi and course materials highlighting changes in course, evidence of changes in student achievement, instructor narrative

Peers: Peer review

Students: Changes in student feedback



Mentoring and Advising

## Demonstrates exceptional quality and time commitment to mentoring and advising

- Establishes clear expectations for students and mentor
- Supports student development through coaching and timely, constructive feedback
- Connects students to opportunities (e.g., networking, advocacy)
- Is available and provides emotional support and encouragement

**Instructor:** Instructor statement, CV (# of student mentees and status, service on student committees, letters of recommendation or nomination of students for awards, scholarship with student collaborators)

Students: Letters or surveys from student advisees



Involvement in Teaching Service Scholarship or Community

# Makes positive contributions to the broader teaching community, both on and off campus

- Consistently positive contributions to teaching and learning culture in department or institution (e.g., curriculum committees, program assessment, co-curricular activities)
- Regular engagement with peers on teaching (e.g., teaching-related presentations or workshops, peer reviews of teaching)
- Presentations or publications to share practices or results of teaching
- Scholarly publications or grant applications related to teaching

**Instructor:** CV (internal or external workshops, presentations, articles, media, grants; participation in communities or development opportunities), teaching committees, involvement in experiential learning or co-curricular activities

**Public Artifacts:** Publications or other public repositories of teaching practices or results



