UC MERCED TEAL LAB POLICY

Overview

Technology-enabled active learning (TEAL) is a teaching format that merges facilitated discussions, simulations, and hands-on desktop experiments to create a rich collaborative learning experience. The UC-Merced TEAL lab (COB2 Room 175) offers a fundamentally different learning environment than other instructional spaces on campus through the design, layout, technology and potential pedagogical choices available to the instructor. The TEAL lab design is intended to help instructors focus class time on collaborative and practical application exercises. The room is designed as if there is no front or back of the room; large rectangular worktables are placed along the outside walls of the room. The instructor's lectern is located in the middle of the room with white boards and displays (and projectors and screens) populating the outside walls next to the participant worktables. Each station has connectivity for laptops or tablets and cameras for capture are dispersed throughout the room. This layout allows smaller groups of students to work together on course curriculum and help each other through problem solving and comprehension. The technology and connectivity offer immediate feedback opportunities, sharing information between the instructor and the participant groups

Criteria Required for TEAL Lab Usage:

Class requests for use of the TEAL Lab must contain the following items:

- Instructor's clear plans to implement collaborative, active learning approaches as central components of the class, including utilization of the room's technology to support instructional strategies.
- Agreement to participate in assessment/research related to the effectiveness of the lab in enhancing active learning and student success.
- Agreement to participate in a TEAL technical orientation with an IT consultant.

Criteria that will inform TEAL Priority Assignment

Class requests for use of the TEAL lab will be prioritized based on a combination of the following criteria:

- The class section meets at least 80% of room capacity (COB2 Room 175 capacity is 90 seats)
- The class section follows standard meeting times (for standard time blocks see http://registrar.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/ga_classroom_scheduling_practices.pdf
- Agreement to participate in TEAL-specific course design workshops provided through the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Assessment / Research Participation

Instructors using TEAL labs are required to participate in assessment/research related to the effectiveness of the lab in enhancing active learning and student success. For more information and design assistance, please contact Dr. Cathy Pohan (cpohan@ucmerced.edu), Associate Director, CETL and Chair of the TEAL Advisory Committee.

Special Requests for TEAL Lab Usage:

Request must be submitted a minimum of three weeks in advance of the requested usage date.

- Instructor's clear plans to implement collaborative, active learning approaches as central components of the class, including utilization of the room's technology to support instructional strategies.
- Agreement to participate in a TEAL technical orientation with an IT consultant.

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Instructor Application Process

Instructors wishing to teach in a TEAL lab should submit an application for use. Links to all TEAL information can be found at http://it.ucmerced.edu/the-teal-room/   All applicants should also notify their School Deans and School Curriculum Managers. The following information is requested in the application for use.

- Instructor's Name
- Course Number and Title
- Term/Year (Fall/Spring/Summer)
- Intended Class Size (maximum 90)
- Course Plans: Briefly describe your plans for using the lab that match its design and technology, including relevant details of planned teaching approaches and class activities. Explain how you will engage students in ways that are unique to this space and its technology, preferably with specific examples of class activities.
- Syllabus: Provide a syllabus from the course that indicates learning outcomes and how they will be achieved more effectively in this lab (this may be a tentative or previous syllabus that is marked up in order to show future plans).
- Other Reasons: Please share any other relevant information that makes your class a good fit for this space--related curricular goals, plans to study impacts on student learning and success, etc.
- Confirm your willingness to participate in a TEAL technical orientation with an IT technology consultant.
- Confirm your willingness to participate and/or indicate how you are willing to participate in assessment studies regarding this space.
- Indicate your interest in TEAL-specific course design workshops provided through the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Application Approval Process

Once the UCM TEAL advisory board has received applications and prioritized classes, the advisory board will provide that preferred list to School Curriculum Managers (with requirements to notify the Registrar) and inform applicants of the results. Please note that in order to accommodate the greatest number of requests, School Curriculum Managers may contact individuals about adjusting class schedules if possible. Instructors of approved courses will be contacted by a member of the TEAL advisory board prior to the beginning of their course to solidify assessment protocols.

TEAL Advisory Board

- Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education   Liz Whitt
- Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning   James Zimmerman
- Director of Academic & Emerging Technology   Joan Holmquist
- Associate Registrar, Office of the Registrar   Josh Reinhold
- Faculty: LSOE, Natural Sciences   Marcos Garcia-Ojeda
- Learning Technologies Manager - OIT   Rachel Peters

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