**COPH Active Learning Classroom (ALC) Guidelines**

**What is active learning and why use it**?

Active learning describes an environment where students are doing more than just passively listening to a lecture. In an active learning classroom, knowledge construction is shaped by the learner’s prior experience and social interaction within the classroom environment. Research shows that active learning improves student’s understanding and retention of information and can be effective in developing higher order cognitive skills such as problem solving and critical thinking. Studies also show that learning is positively stimulated when technology and physical space designs are thoughtfully implemented into any active learning activity. Active Learning presents a change in the learning and teaching culture of a classroom. The focus of the learning environment shifts from being teacher-led to student-centered

**ALC at COPH**

Within the College of Public Health, you will be pleased to know that steps have been taken to combine great teaching and learning with technology and active learning space design in rooms 2003 and 2004. Our COPH active learning classrooms include the following cutting edge features:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 7 HD monitors * Updated lighting * Crestron control panel * Built-in Sound Speaker System * Laptop Integration (HDMI, VGA) * Wireless lapel microphone | * Multiple power outlets * Stronger Wi-Fi signals * New student’s desk stations * Laser projector * Wireless handheld microphone |

In this newly designed space, students can connect to TV monitors with their laptop or mobile devices (phones, tablets etc.). Faculty can control all display and presentation features from the Crestron control panel found on the podium.

**Logistics**

* To use this space, please contact Lakiecher Murphy in Academic and Student Affairs office or via email at [lmurphy@usf.edu](mailto:lmurphy@usf.edu)
* Before using the rooms, Faculty are encouraged to participate in a training session on how to effectively use the technology.
* Students can use laptops or mobile devices to connect and interact with their peers. However be aware that laptops integrate better.
* To report an issue click on the “Help” button on the Crestron control panel.

**Planning Tips**

* Consider adding a description and expectations about the active learning method in your syllabus.
* Consult with ETA about your active learning lesson plans for the semester or for a particular class session. ETA can walk you through the space and provide a one-on-one consultation to assist you with your needs.
* If doing it on your own, consider using the “[Active Learning Strategies and Techniques](https://usflearn.instructure.com/courses/1205391/modules#module_1401816)” created by ETA.
* It is strongly recommended that instructors conduct a test-run of the activity before the day of the class.

**Delivery**

* During the first week or if using the ALC for the first time, it’s recommended that you:
  + Introduce the concept of Active Learning and why you’re using it.
  + State rules and expectations.
  + Allow time for connectivity and technical issues on your lesson planning.
* Always have a plan “B”, in case technology fails or students are not able to connect their own devices.
* Have a learning space design ready to complement your active learning activity. (pre-arrange room furniture)
* Display group goals, lesson goals and desired outcomes at the beginning of the lesson.
* Start with a warm up activity to get them motivated and test out the technology.
* Instructors are encouraged to always be walking around, interacting and giving impromptu feedback.
* Have an “exit” ticket activity to either measure the learning or to get feedback from students about the activity.

**Recommended Process for Planning your Active Learning Activity** (source: [ADDIE](http://www.instructionaldesign.org/models/addie.html))

These Five phases are typically applied to create an effective Active Learning Activity. Please contact ETA or visit the Active Learning activities [repository](https://usflearn.instructure.com/courses/1205391) for more information.

* **Analysis:** 2 weeks prior to implementation
  + Activity idea, audience background, learning gaps, lesson objectives, timeline, pedagogical considerations.
* **Design:** 2 weeks prior to implementation
  + Activity tools, Active learning techniques, user interface and experience.
* **Development:** 1 week prior to implementation
  + Create, assemble, and test-out the activity.
* **Implementation:** During this phase, besides facilitating the lesson, instructors or TAs should also be observing and taking notes on what works and what doesn’t.
* **Evaluation:** Provide and collect a student’s feedback.

To effectively use the ALC, the following steps are recommended:

* **Start with learning objectives:** 
  + let your learning objective lead the process
  + Define what you need to achieve so you can plan how the space can help
  + Move from the traditional instructor led methods to a more Student-centered method that empower the learner to be more engaged and involved in the learning process
* **Use multiple pedagogies:**
  + Lecture presentation mode may continue to be the kick start of your lessons, then followed by directing students to move to a different learning mode to access content, their peers and the instructor to support learning.
  + Implementing activities that you’ve done before: centers, team-based learning, PBL, collaborative groups. And now consider the possibilities your new classroom can adapt to those activities.
  + Make sure you use clear and well develop expectations to avoid wasting time.
* **Increase access between instructor and students**
  + No matter the set up or mode, everyone needs the kind of access required to foster trust and confidence in sharing ideas
  + The ALC allows you to shift your role from the transmission of information to that of helping create and nurture a learning environment that guides your students to construct their own knowledge and learning
  + You are now free to move around to classroom supporting a much closer and deeper connection to your students.
  + These activities range from one-on-one tutoring
  + Join alongside a group to facilitate the learning
  + Or focus on the entire classroom to you when an opportunity for sharing information present itself
  + Shifting in roles, allowing students to have easy access to you and you to them.
  + Release control of the classroom
  + As you start to implement these strategies it won’t just unleash the potential of your classroom, it will unleash a deeper and more rewarding teaching experience for you
  + Use your professional network