



Leveraging a student-faculty partnership to improve materials for PHSL-P 225

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Background

- A disconnect between students and faculty, worsened by COVID-19, leaves students feeling unheard.
- Educators perceive students as lacking work ethic, though this belief is often implied rather than stated.
- Pandemic leniency in grading may have hindered students' study habits, highlighting the need for more faculty support.

Potential solution

- In Spring 2024 Indiana University's Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) created a faculty learning community (FLC) which highlighted the need for better communication between students and faculty about course materials.
- Faculty in the FLC realized that students may not always understand the purpose behind assignments, leading to a potential disconnect.
- Helped faculty realize that students and faculty are equal stakeholders in a class
- Undergraduate teaching assistants (UTAs) can serve as a bridge, gathering feedback from students who might be hesitant to directly approach faculty.

Professor perspective

- UTA feedback revealed that the course materials were not as effective as initially thought, prompting revisions.
- Insights from UTAs about difficult concepts helped refine course content to better address student concerns.

UTA perspective

- Eager to work on course revisions because they enjoyed engaging with the material more deeply and helping students.
- Viewed Dr. Davis' initiative as a chance to make the course easier for students to understand and appreciated his interest in improving student experiences.
- Felt valued and comfortable providing feedback, which is uncommon for undergraduate students.

We reviewed the following

From June-August 2024 we reviewed the following-

- ~100 PowerPoint presentations
- Open education resource textbook
- ~100 Pre-class videos and PlayPosit questions
- ~50 pre-class assignments
- ~100 question banks (20-30 questions each)
- ~100 review Kahoots (5-10 questions/each)
- ~100 memory matrices

Results

- Through 6 weeks PHSL-P 225 students have had access to 1,521 questions
 - 1,040 questions in Canvas quiz banks
 - 193 PlayPosit questions
 - 294 Kahoot questions
- Only 9 questions with errors have been located (0.59%)

Anecdotal success

- Due to the high accuracy of materials, students have expressed confidence that the resources available to them will help.
- Students like that their peers helped create the materials. Makes them feel heard.
- Students appreciate the variety of resources available to them.

What we have learned so far

- Reviewing all course materials was a large effort, but smaller-scale reviews can provide valuable insights.
- Such exercises help educators understand student perspectives and show genuine care for their success.
- This experience can be shared with current students to foster a supportive classroom environment.

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