

Supplemental Material

CBE—Life Sciences Education

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Appendix A: Teaching Practices Items

1. The course has an assignment taking longer than two weeks and involving some degree of student control in choice of topic or design (such as paper or project).
2. I use student feedback (and results) to improve course delivery.
3. Assignments describe clear criteria for successful completion.
4. The final exam is less than 61% of the final grade.
5. I assure that students receive feedback on homework assignments and quizzes.
6. When I try new methods or materials, I evaluate objectively the effectiveness of the change.
7. I compare student performance across sections and/or semesters to improve course delivery.
8. Most class sessions include small group work or problem solving activities.
9. The fraction of typical class period spent lecturing (presenting content, deriving results or presenting a problem solution) is less than 60%.
10. I provide course information to students that lists topic-specific competencies (skills, expertise, outcomes) that students should achieve (what students should be able to do).
11. I employ distinct activities that encourage students to make connections between the course material and their own lives
12. I ask students to evaluate and reflect on their own learning and study habits.
13. I assign multiple homework assignments or problem sets that (in total) contribute significantly to the course grade.
14. I assure that students receive feedback on low-stakes assignments or quizzes before they are tested or evaluated on their command of the material/skill.

15. I have students engage in reflective activities at the end of class, e.g. “one minute paper” or similar (students briefly answering questions, reflecting on lecture and/or their learning, etc.).
16. I provide students easy access to exam answer keys.
17. I employ distinct activities that help students evaluate their own learning and learn more effectively.
18. I provide students with opportunities that give them some control over their learning, such as choice of topics for course, paper, or project, choice of assessment methods, etc.
19. I encourage and facilitate students working collaboratively on their assignments.
20. Students receive feedback with an opportunity to revise or redo work to improve grade on major assignments.
21. Students see graded midterm exams/papers.
22. I assign students material for the upcoming class session and have them complete assignments or quizzes on it before or at beginning of class.
23. I employ distinct activities that can be used to improve student motivation and interest in the course materials.