

Tips for Powerful Pedagogies

Integrative pedagogies that require students to synthesize multiple perspectives can have a powerful impact on student learning. They can become even more powerful when multiple integrative strategies are combined (Newell, 2001). Consider using one or more of the powerful pedagogies in your teaching.

Learning Communities

- Learning communities formed through the clustering of discipline-specific and general education requirement courses can help students view specific problems or issues from various perspectives.
- Learning communities can promote a particular theme through assignments and classroom activities. Typically, faculty teaching these communities will meet to develop and assess the learning activities.

Collaborative Learning

- Extends from a movement to develop learning environments that are less competitive, but rigorous.
- Reinforces learning through various active learning strategies like working in groups, problem-centered instruction, peer feedback approaches, etc.
- Faculty can assist student development through the integration of multiple viewpoints.

Living/Learning Communities

- Incorporate both curricular and co-curricular aspects of education.
- Play a key role in encouraging students' level of "integration into the various cultural, social, and extracurricular systems of an institution" (Pascarella, Terenzini, and Blimling, 1994 p. 26). These communities enhance the development of students' cognitive and social growth.
- An appreciation for racial and cultural diversity appears to be correlated with living in a residence hall.

Experiential Learning

- Integrates classroom learning with real world experiences.
- Engages students in activities directly related to classroom studies.
- Examples of experiential learning include study abroad, field work and service learning.

Service Learning

- Provides opportunities for students to apply classroom theories and practices while engaging in civic responsibility.
- Exposes students to multiple cultures and communities represented in U.S. society.
- Prepares students to critically engage and reexamine academic literature and theory embedded in their educational studies.

Multicultural Learning

- Values the individual lens that students use to view and interpret the world.
- Encourages students to see diversity as a unique tool in understanding the complexities of society.
- Advances the "preservation, celebration, and empowerment...of human culture, especially those of minority groups within American society" (Smith & McCann, 2001, pg. 207).

Resources

- Pascarella, E. T., Terenzini, P. T., & Blimling, G. S. (1994). The impact of residential life on students. In C. C. Schroeder & P. Mable (Eds.), *Realizing the Educational Potential of Residence Halls* (pp. 22-52). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Newell, W. H. (2001). Powerful Pedagogies. In B. L. Smith, & J. McCann (Eds.), *Reinventing ourselves: Interdisciplinary education, collaborative learning, and experimentation in higher education* (pp. 196-211). Bolton, MA: Anker.