Embedding Learning Strategies into the Curriculum

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Why embed learning strategies into the classroom?

• More effective learning occurs
  1. Develop a repertoire of effective academic habits
  2. Foster transferable skills development
  3. Gain awareness of learning processes
  4. Build critical thinking skills
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5. Enhance ability to master course content
6. Enrich learning environment
7. Increase frequency/variety of assessment & feedback
8. Create connections among students & available supports
9. Increase student achievement & engagement
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How can you embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

**Use your syllabus**

Build time management skills
- create a timeline in your syllabus for an assignment
- have students transfer information such as due dates

Be explicit in your expectations
- state learning objectives that emphasize analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
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Highlight organizational skills by emphasizing the importance of the course syllabus—make it a “living document”

- Continually refer to the syllabus
- Activity to extract, discuss, and reorganize the information
- Leave blanks that students are expected to fill in
- Show the one-minute video “What is a Syllabus”
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**In class**
Help students build a strong conceptual framework so they can organize information into meaningful patterns
- Use frameworks such as concept maps, outlines.
- Relate concepts to real life and what students know

**Build in a study process**
- Preview
- Discuss
- Review
“Make explicit the implicit demands of the course”
(Arendale & Ghere, 2005, p. 228)

- Survey students to determine if they know how much time should be spent on homework outside class
- Discuss how much time should be spent to complete an assignment that is weighted at 20%
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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

2. Tie the textbook to effective note-taking

- “Walk through” the textbook with students
  - Table of contents, glossary, index, study questions, key terms, bolded information
- Discuss various methods of note-taking
  - Refer to note-taking handouts at the ASC’s website
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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

3. Integrate study skills workshops into the course

   • Embed two ASC time management workshops into the syllabus
     • One at the beginning of the semester, one after the mid-term
     • Can integrate specific assignment/exam planning and deadlines into the workshop
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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

5. Model ways to understand academic content and learning strategies that students can use to study for exams

- As a class, develop a practice exam to help study
- Discuss strategies for different types of exam questions
  - Refer to exam tips handouts at the ASC’s website
- Discuss exam anxiety and how to minimize it
How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

6. Utilize small peer-group cooperative learning strategies

- Learning is enhanced by social interaction
- Teamwork on projects develops higher-order thinking
- Assists students to build communities of practice
- Can be very simple: students form small groups and develop a set of flashcards
How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

7. Create/modify reading activities/exercises to enhance students’ organization, analysis, and critical thinking skills

• Ask students each week to recognize key points in a reading and summarize the information
How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

8. Use the writing process and writing assignments to foster writing skills

- For a long paper assignment, embed the ASC Writing Advisor into the course at various dates to discuss the stages of writing an effective paper
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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

9. Encourage students to use one another as learning resources
   - Small in-class group activities help students become comfortable with one-another
   - Encourage students to form study groups outside of class
     - Refer to the ASC’s handout “Study Groups: Strategies for Success”
How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

10. Embed the ASC Learning Strategies Advisor into your classroom

- The Advisor will conduct a series of in-class learning strategies workshops contextualized for specific courses
- The Advisor will work with students in key student success areas
  - Time management, notetaking, textbook reading, study strategies


ASC us!

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