

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

► Formerly known as the Learning Assistance Services program, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is committed to helping students flourish academically. It does this by providing a wide range of services to undergraduates and by creating a campus climate where they can thrive. CETL also offers services to faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants that improve the quality of their instruction. Students benefit from this broad foundation of support, one that propels them toward success in whatever fields they pursue after graduation.

For undergraduate students, CETL offers course-specific, collaborative workshops and study groups, study-skills counseling, a study-skills course, and disability support. For graduate students, it provides resources to support their own studies as well as their work as classroom and laboratory teaching assistants and instructors. For faculty, CETL offers workshops,

consulting services, a mini-grant program, and a repository of resources about designing, teaching, and evaluating courses.

Helping Students Succeed

The Workshop Program

The University offers workshops that complement undergraduate lectures and labs in biology, chemistry, Earth and environmental sciences, computer science, optics and engineering, philosophy, business, and nursing. These course-specific, weekly sessions are led by students who recently excelled in the course. Participating students develop exceptional analytical skills and conceptual understanding through challenging problem solving and peer collaboration.

Disability Support

CETL provides individual counseling and transition support for more than 250 students, consults with faculty and teaching assistants on behalf

of students, and provides classroom accommodations, including alternative test-taking arrangements, note-taking, interpreters, adaptive equipment, and other services.

Study Skills

Undergraduates from all disciplines come to CETL's skilled counselors for support with time management, note taking, reading skills, test-taking strategies, and test preparation. CETL, in partnership with the Office of Minority Affairs, also offers a credit-bearing course in effective study strategies for all students.

Teaching Services

CETL offers sessions on teaching topics, classroom observations, a faculty learning community, student interviews and feedback, and online teaching resources. Topics addressed include course design, experiential learning, innovative teaching methods, small group facilitation, large-enrollment courses, and course evaluation.



“Workshops provide a great way to really get a good grasp on lecture material, look at problems from new perspectives, and support each other. I’ve learned a lot about myself being a workshop leader, and I’ve become a better student along the way.”

Brianna Spencer '14
biochemistry major



How You Can Help

Gifts to CETL can have a transformative effect on faculty and students. Your support can help CETL meet its goal of helping students succeed.

Support Students

Supporting students is one of the University's highest priorities. Consider establishing fellowships for workshop leaders. This support would help expand the program across humanities, arts, sciences, and engineering courses. Or contribute funds or make an in-kind equipment donation as these gifts would have a significant impact on learning.

Establish an Endowed Lecture and Learning Series

Such a program would encompass diverse teaching topics like disability issues, effective use of technology, diversity and cultural

competence, group dynamics and team development, rubric development, and more.

Create an Endowed Directorship

Endowed positions help attract and retain faculty and staff of exceptional talent and are visible honors recognized across the University and by other top educational institutions. Through such lasting support, new programs can flourish.

Endow CETL

This is the ultimate show of support and commitment to teaching and learning excellence. Funds would be placed into an endowment to support the day-to-day operation of the center, development of new programs, and increased financial aid for students. The center would forever be known by the name the benefactor chooses.

“The common thread through all of CETL’s programs and services is our commitment to students. We are focused on improving their lives, cultivating academic success, and helping them reach their full potential.”

—Vicki Roth, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



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