

IMPLEMENTING ACTIVE LEARNING IN AN EMERGENCY REMOTE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: GOALS

Whether you are a novice or veteran of active learning, it helps to think about how you might think about using active learning to support the goals for your remote learning course. The shift in learning environment most likely will have an impact on what you prioritize for students to learn.

CHECKLIST OF GOALS REASSESSMENT

	Ask yourself:
Prioritize what you want students to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main things I want students to be able to know and do by the end of the course? • Which goals involve basic learning (understand and recall concepts) and which involve higher-order learning (analyze, apply, evaluate, and create content)? Include both kinds of goals. • Given what students have already learned in the course so far, what else can they learn in a meaningful way online?
Identify assignments or activities would help students learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What current assignments most directly support the main goals I want students to be able to achieve by the end of the course? • What assignments can I eliminate (because they are covered elsewhere or are less directly relevant) or adapt for an online environment? • What are some alternative assignments that will help students achieve the same learning goals? For example, instead of writing a lab report, students could create a storyboard of experiment to highlight lab or safety procedures. Instead of a research paper, students could write a digital essay in PowerPoint.
Incorporate active learning-related activities strategically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assignments or activities would benefit from active learning strategies? For example, instead of continuous lecture, could I break up my lecture and allow an opportunity for students to discuss in small groups? Instead of working problems for, could I have students work problems collaboratively? • What are some easy active learning strategies I can incorporate? See Stearns Center's Active Learning Webpage. • What are some models or examples I can show students?

STRATEGIES

	Examples
New to active learning? Use active learning strategies for low-stakes assignments/activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down lectures to 8-10-minute sections and include opportunities for engagement in an open chatbox, pausing for reflective questions or asking students to identify an unclear concept • Upload incomplete lecture notes and have students fill in information in a collaborative document
Have experience with active learning? Incorporate active learning into major projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students analyze an existing case study or lab experiment to evaluate study design • Convert a research paper into a digital essay that uses images