

# Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence

*The Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Teaching Excellence serves faculty (both full- and part-time) and graduate students at Saint Louis University. Services are available for individuals or groups (e.g., departments and colleges). All consultations and feedback are confidential.*

## Academic Portfolio Retreat

The CTE offers an annual retreat for pre-tenured faculty to develop their academic portfolios for tenure and promotion. The retreat, offered in the spring, provides an opportunity for faculty to analyze, reflect on, and organize evidence of their teaching, research, and service. Participants leave with a preliminary draft of their academic portfolio.

## Certificate in University Teaching Skills (CUTS)

The CTE's Certificate programs provide SLU graduate students and faculty with opportunities to learn about the research on teaching and learning, to enhance their teaching practice, to develop their philosophy of teaching, and to document teaching competencies.

## Classroom Observations

CTE staff are available to observe classroom teaching upon request. Such observations help instructors to identify patterns in their teaching and to better understand how the choices they make in the classroom affect student engagement and learning.

## Conversations on Teaching

The CTE sponsors informal conversations on teaching, often organized around a guiding theme or topic. Recent conversations have focused on: understanding the principles of Ignatian pedagogy, integrating technology into teaching, and designing and assessing effective writing assignments.

## Consultations on Teaching

CTE staff are available for confidential consultations to discuss teaching evaluations, provide feedback on course materials, to brainstorm alternative teaching methods, to suggest new ways to engage students, to support research on teaching and learning, or to discuss other teaching-related topics. Consultations may occur in a single discussion or in regular, ongoing instructional design meetings.

## Curriculum Development & Review

Individuals and/or departments may request assistance with various aspects of curriculum development. The CTE can offer support on everything from alignment within a single course to alignment across an entire departmental curriculum. We also can provide assistance with department- and college-level assessment efforts and with curriculum development for new degree programs.

## Effective Teaching Seminars

As part of its Certificate programs, the CTE offers Effective Teaching Seminars on a wide range of topics. These seminars are interactive, hands-on workshops, usually facilitated by SLU faculty, which are meant to provide an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to learn new ways of thinking about their own teaching. All SLU faculty and graduate students are welcome at these events; participation in the CUTS program is not required.



St. Ignatius  
of Loyola

### Ignatian Pedagogy

The elements of Ignatian pedagogy – context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation – are essential to the Jesuit educational mission and to effective teaching and learning. The CTE offers workshops and one-on-one consultations to facilitate the intentional integration of Ignatian pedagogical principles into online teaching.

### Instructional Design

The CTE provides a full range of instructional design services for online, blended, and traditional face-to-face courses. We can assist with designing new courses or re-designing existing courses for faculty who wish to create more effective, engaging, and innovative learning experiences for their students.

### Learning Spaces

CTE staff are available to consult on the design and development of innovative learning spaces (both physical and virtual) and on curriculum development that makes the most of such spaces. The Center also supports faculty teaching in the CTE Learning Studio (in Des Peres Hall) which offers a creative, versatile, and engaging space where faculty may experiment with new approaches to teaching. (Faculty who wish to teach in the Learning Studio may apply for a CTE Innovative Teaching Fellowship, which typically provides for course relief and for ongoing CTE instructional design support as they (re)design courses appropriate for teaching in that space.)

### Learning Technologies

In addition to providing training and support for faculty using SLU Global (a.k.a., BlackBoard, the course management system), the CTE also can provide guidance to faculty who wish to use lecture capture technologies (e.g., Tegrity), social media, and other innovative technologies in their teaching. In all cases, our central aim is to empower faculty to use technologies in ways that are appropriate and pedagogically sound for their particular course and learning goals.

### Mentoring for New Faculty

Upon request, the CTE can arrange for faculty new to the University to be paired with a mentor from outside their department.

### Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

The CTE is committed to advancing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in a variety of forms. We offer regular reading groups on current SoTL literature, publish regular White Papers highlighting SoTL work by SLU faculty and graduate students, and recognize SLU faculty SoTL work with our annual James H. Korn Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

### Student Feedback Sessions (SGIFs)

The Center offers Small Group Instructional Feedback sessions (SGIFs) for instructors who wish to better understand how their students are experiencing their courses during the semester. Typically requested during mid-term, SGIFs are short focus groups conducted by CTE staff; they provide formative feedback that instructors can use during the term, while there is still a time to make adjustments to their teaching.

### Teaching Resources

The CTE provides a wide range of teaching resources, including our teaching newsletter, The Notebook, which is published online twice each semester. We maintain a resource library of select teaching resources in the Center, and links to specialized web resources can be found on our website.

### Workshops

In addition to the Effective Teaching Seminars that are part of our Certificate program, the CTE offers numerous workshops on teaching-related topics, from customized departmental workshops to invited workshops with national and international facilitators.