

The Role of Instructional Developers in the Innovative Teaching Fellowship

Often, people ask, what is the role of the Instructional Developer (ID) in the Innovative Teaching Fellowship? There are two phases of the fellowship: the course (re)design process and teaching in the Learning Studio. Instructional Developers serve as a reliable, confidential resource for Innovative Teaching Fellows throughout the duration of the fellowship. However, the role of the Instructional Developer changes somewhat over the course of the fellowship period.

During the course (re)design process, the Instructional Developer will:

- **Meet on a regular basis:** IDs will coordinate with their Innovative Teaching Fellows to find a consistent time to meet regularly in order to design and prepare for their course for the Learning Studio.
- **Ask questions and act as a sounding board:** IDs will ask questions to support faculty as they work to define innovation for themselves and to (re)design learning objectives, develop assessments, facilitate collaborative and active learning, and create intentional learning experiences and spaces.
- **Weigh technology options:** IDs will help faculty identify and discern the appropriateness of educational technologies.
- **Respect instructor autonomy:** Innovative Teaching Fellows are the drivers and owners of the course design process; therefore, the pace of the course (re)design process and the decisions made throughout should be determined by the instructor.
- **Consider learning space as essential to instructional design:** IDs will encourage faculty to consider how technology, learning space design, and intentional learning experiences influence teaching and learning.
- **Brainstorm possible solutions to any pedagogical challenges:** Drawing on evidence-based research, IDs will work with faculty to brainstorm possible strategies to address previous and/or anticipated pedagogical challenges.

While Fellows are teaching in the Learning Studio, the Instructional Developer will:

- **Arrive early to ensure adequate time to prepare:** IDs will be on-site 30 minutes prior to class to assist with classroom preparation and to provide access to the Learning Studio and its equipment.
- **Be on-site:** While their innovative Teaching Fellow's class is in session, IDs will be in Des Peres Hall, room 214 (across from the Learning Studio), in case there are problems that need to be worked through.
- **Be available to meet to reflect on how things are going:** In addition to being on site during the class period, IDs also are available to meet between class sessions to discuss how things are going and to determine whether changes are needed to planned instructional activities.
- **Continue to support the instructor in their teaching goals:** While IDs are not to be considered co-teachers, teaching assistants, or technical support for the course, they will continue to help Fellows find ways to achieve their own teaching goals during the fellowship.