



Teaching Circles

What are Teaching Circles?

Teaching Circles are a new Faculty Enrichment Program at UT Arlington. During the pilot year, the Office of the Provost will host three to four circles. Each circle will consist of a small group of faculty (8 to 12 people) who share a common interest related to teaching and learning. All faculty, both full and part time, are invited to join. Each circle will meet twice during Fall 2006 and three to four times during Spring 2007. A facilitator will remind members about meetings and keep the group on track but all members will play an equal role in terms of contributing to the circle. Each circle will submit a one-page summary of its activities in May 2007.

What are some of the benefits of joining a Teaching Circle?

Teaching Circles foster informal discussions about a common theme or issue related to teaching and learning. Through meaningful conversations about teaching, faculty are able to share ideas and strategies. Since the circles are designed to be cross disciplinary, faculty from across the campus will work together. Faculty also establish a sense of community with each other and are able to offer support. The ultimate goal is to improve the teaching experience for faculty and to enhance the learning experience for students.

How do I join a Teaching Circle?

Choose a teaching circle from the list below. Complete the Teaching Circles Application Form and return it by Wednesday, October 18. For additional information, contact Linda Wilson, Assistant Provost, X2-3838 or l.wilson@uta.edu.

Service Learning Circle

Facilitator: Dr. Shirley Theriot, Director of the Center for Community Service Learning

This circle is designed for faculty with an orientation toward or interest in service learning including those who have never incorporated service learning into their coursework, those who have integrated service learning into their curriculum in a limited manner and those with extensive experience in service learning.

Emerging Classroom Technologies Circle

Facilitator: Dr. Pete Smith, Director of the Center for Distance Education

This circle will focus on how emerging tools and ideas can be used to support and enhance both on-campus and online classes, including blogging, podcasting, online meetings, and more. Faculty who are currently using instructional technology and those interested in learning more about what's available are invited to join.

Active Learning Circle

Facilitator: To be determined

This circle will allow faculty with an interest in active learning to share experiences and support each other. Faculty with an extensive background in active learning, those with some experience with the technique, and those who have never tried active learning but would like to learn more about it will all benefit from this circle. Depending on the level of interest, two separate circles on active learning may be formed.