General Education Lifelong Learning, 101

GEL 101 is a freshman experience course where students learn the basics of being a college student. This includes a two-week module on how to be a student-scholar and how to do research in college.

Within higher education, team teaching is:

DOs

Communicate: Frequently and honestly

Complement: Create a different atmosphere where you buy off each other's strengths.

Plan ahead: Agree ahead of time on the tasks, responsibilities, and roles of all involved.

Adapt: Be ready and willing to change based on interactions that occur in the classroom.

Show the power: See yourself as an expert rather than the expert.

Stand up: Model collaborative engagement and participation for your students

DON'Ts

Assume: Make sure everyone is on the same page – both students and instructors.

Don't team with someone who is too different – it might confuse the students and frustrate you.

Look for a selection: They belong to a learning community or more than 50% of the work.

Be a dominant: Challenge your collaborator to bring new ideas to the table.

Steal the spotlight: Acknowledge your collaborator and invite them to participate.

Again: This can confuse the students and not respect their co-instructor’s expertise.

Next step...

Conduct a pilot study examining student achievement in addition to instructor/student perceptions across test and control groups.

References


