

## **The Dynamics of Great Teaching**

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Teaching is a skill, not a content area. As such, practitioners become better at what they do by practice, mentoring, coaching, observing, and self-reflection. It is important to hear from other teachers, to be observed by peers, collaborate with peers on new ideas, pilot new methods and always self-reflect on the effectiveness of those methods.

As each group of students and even individual class meetings are completely different, (particularly if any students are missing) – the dynamics completely change. That means, nothing is static for the effective instructor. Every meeting with students online or on ground, either one-on-one or in a group, is open for flexibility and requires the effective instructor to be alert, and ready with good ideas to communicate and facilitate the learning process.

While planning is vital, all planning should be flexible where only the learning outcome remains unchanged. Methods and strategies should always change based in student needs and challenges. Therefore, effective instructors are always learning about what new methods and strategies might be used. Additionally, being alert to what works and what does not work means that instructors will continue to grow and hone their skill.

Creating a dynamic community of instructor-learners is the goal of this group. Realizing that there is not one way to teach, and knowing that we must always continue to learn, this group has been set up to network career instructors and encourage the exchange of ideas, methods, and strategies so that we can improve as instructors and facilitate more success for our students.