Building teaching excellence through leadership, collaboration & innovation

The Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI) provides leadership in teaching and learning at the University of Toronto and provides support for pedagogy and pedagogy-driven instructional technology for all teaching staff and teaching assistants across the university’s campuses and divisions.

PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

Workshops, roundtables, book clubs, and special events are offered throughout the year for faculty, librarians and graduate students. These sessions cover a range of topics on teaching, learning and pedagogical issues. A “Tune into Teaching” week-long series of workshops is offered each fall in coordination with New Faculty Orientation. CTSI also provides customized workshops for units and divisions. For more information see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/ctsi-events/workshops/

A more intensive model of support is offered through CTSI’s two-day Course Design/Re-design Institute, two-day Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Institute and the eight-week Fundamentals of University Teaching course. With colleagues from across the University, participants experience hands-on activities and explore new concepts in the design, implementation and assessment of courses and teaching. For more information on the Course Design/Re-design Institute see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/course-design/. For information on the Fundamentals of University Teaching course see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/fundamentals/.

THE U of T LEARNING PORTAL (BLACKBOARD)

The institutionally-supported learning management system (Blackboard Learn), commonly referred to as the “Portal”, includes a number of tools that can assist faculty in the delivery of courses. The Portal is a full-featured learning management system (LMS) with an advanced content system, a variety of student communication tools, easy-to-use course administration features and a mobile application. Support guides, training sessions and key information to get started using the Portal are available on the Academic Technology Information & Portal Help website: portalinfo.utoronto.ca. For Portal support, please email portal.help@utoronto.ca.

SUPPORTED EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES AT U OF T

A number of web applications and educational technology tools are licenced, hosted and fully supported by the University of Toronto. CTSI provides general support for managing and harnessing technology in the classroom to meet varied educational goals. A few examples of supported educational technologies include: Turnitin.com, iClickers, and Blackboard Collaborate. For a complete list of University supported technologies, see: act.utoronto.ca/edtech-catalogue/

SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING & LEARNING (SoTL)

CTSI is dedicated to the advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) at our institution. CTSI serves as a hub to enable and support this form of scholarship via a number of resources and activities such as a SoTL listserv, network meetings, workshops and an institute, all more fully described on our SoTL website: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/sotl/
PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT

- Classroom Visits: A CTSI staff member can visit a faculty member’s classroom (with the option of recording the class), observe the teaching and interaction with students, then discuss these observations with the instructor in a follow-up consultation. Upon request, CTSI can also provide written formative feedback for inclusion in teaching dossiers. For more information see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/in-class-observations/.

- Consultations: CTSI offers personalized support in areas such as teaching dossier review, pedagogical design, teaching strategies, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL), working with graduate students, using educational technology, and other teaching related matters. To schedule a consultation fill out the online request form at: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/consultations/.

- Teaching Dossier Review: CTSI offers support in the development and presentation of faculty teaching dossiers, including teaching philosophy statements. To access CTSI’s guide to “Developing & Assessing Teaching Dossiers” see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/documenting-teaching/teaching-dossier/.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

The CTSI Course Evaluation Service works with divisions, departments, staff, and faculty members on all matters related to the administration of the new course evaluation framework and its online system, including the design and analysis of course evaluation questions, the interpretation of course evaluation data, provision of educational resources and guidelines, information sessions, and one-on-one consultations. For more information please go to Portal and click on the Course Evals tab or email course.evaluations@utoronto.ca.

RECOGNIZING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING TEACHING

CTSI is the administrative hub for the U of T Teaching Academy. Founded in 2006, the Teaching Academy consists of members who have received the President’s Teaching Award, the highest honour for teaching at the University of Toronto. Academy members serve as an advisory group to CTSI, offering expertise, direction and involvement in CTSI programming such as “Open Doors”. For more information see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/ctsi-events/open-doors/.

- Teaching Awards: CTSI staff are happy to review nomination files or assist with the compilation of teaching award dossiers for internal and external teaching awards. For more information see: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/awards/

TEACHING ASSISTANTS’ TRAINING PROGRAM

The Teaching Assistants’ Training Program (TATP) offers training and resources for graduate students and the University of Toronto in a variety of ways.

Resources for working with your graduate students and TAs
See: http://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/working-w-grads/

Teaching Assistants’ Training Program (TATP): workshops, seminars, consultations, two certificate programs, teaching award and resources. See: tatp.utoronto.ca

Paid Training: Per the collective agreement with CUPE 3902, TATP can lead training for first-contract teaching assistants (3 hours), can offer tutorial-specific training for first-contract and experienced teaching assistants, and can provide training options for first contract Course Instructors (6 hours). See: http://tatp.utoronto.ca/job-training/