

# Academic Assessment Newsletter

February 2017

## Professional Development Workshop

### Developing Effective Research Assignment Guidelines (Instructional)

Dr. Arenthia Herren, Dr. Rozalind Jester, Dr. Amy Trogan, Dr. Phillip Wiseley

Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 2:00pm - 3:30pm |

Location: Lee: AA-168 (Polycom: Charlotte: E-105; Collier: M-201; Hendry-Glades: A-114)



### Description:

When we develop a research assignment, we know what skills and knowledge students should master. Developing assignment guidelines that encompass everything we want our students to learn is a difficult task. If we are not clear and comprehensive, our students will often fail to meet our expectations. At this workshop, various types of research assignments will be discussed – essays, oral and visual presentations, etc. Cross-disciplinary faculty, as a panel, will share their own guidelines, offer suggestions for taking current assignments to the next level, and facilitate an open forum. The participants are the academic experts in their respective disciplines; therefore, they are encouraged to bring their own assignments and ideas to share.

### Session Goals:

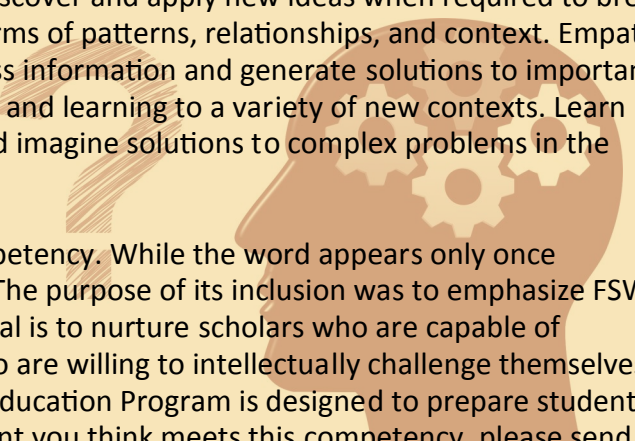
Participants will learn how to make their research assignment guidelines more effective by providing specific and clear objectives for students to accomplish. Participants will learn how to develop thorough assignments that guide students through the research and writing process, from topic selection to the revision process.

## General Education Corner

### General Education Competency:

**Investigate and engage in the transdisciplinary applications of research, learning, and knowledge.** Discover and apply new ideas when required to break with traditional systems of thought. Foster systemic problem-solving habits that require thinking in terms of patterns, relationships, and context. Empathize and engage with others from diverse backgrounds in order to develop, understand, evaluate and assess information and generate solutions to important local, national, and global problems. Collaboratively work with others to creatively transfer knowledge and learning to a variety of new contexts. Learn different approaches to intellectual inquiry, test theories for issues that confront our communities, and imagine solutions to complex problems in the academy, the workplace, and the world.

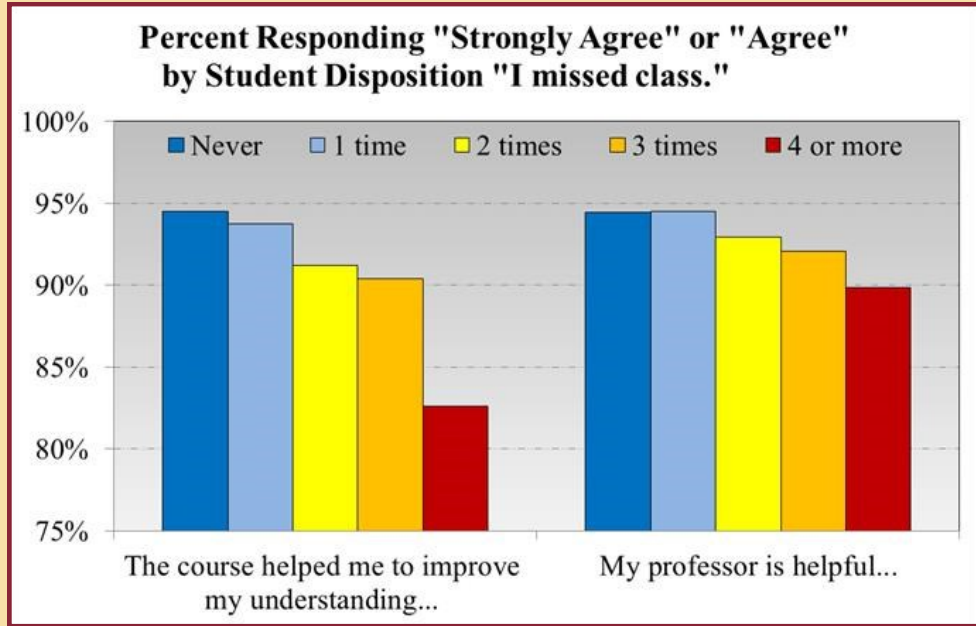
You may have noticed the use of the word transdisciplinary in one of the new General Education Competency. While the word appears only once throughout the new competencies, transdisciplinary permeates FSW's general education philosophy. The purpose of its inclusion was to emphasize FSW's multi-branched approach to knowledge and education. As evidenced in the above competency, the goal is to nurture scholars who are capable of synthesizing knowledge from multiple fields of study. Our society and workplaces need individuals who are willing to intellectually challenge themselves by using unique and borderless methodologies to process information and solve problems. The General Education Program is designed to prepare students for an innovative level of critical thinking by using the transdisciplinary approach. If you have an assessment you think meets this competency, please send it to [Rebecca.Harris@fsw.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Harris@fsw.edu).



# Student Opinion Survey (SOS) Results

In Fall 2016, the Student Opinion Survey (SOS) was administered in place of the old SEI (and previous to that, SIR II) for the first time.

One aspect of the SOS allows for a comparison of how students answer self-report questions about their disposition with how they respond to questions about the course. This plot compares survey results based on how students responded to the prompt "I missed class." The perception of the course correlates well with the attendance of the student. A student that never misses a class, for example, rates how the course helped him or her understand the materials as much as 12% higher than someone who missed class 4 or more times.



## LAC Member Profiles



**Jennifer Patterson**  
Professor, Management

Before Jennifer Patterson began her career as a Management Professor in the School of Business and Technology, she worked in the construction industry in drafting and design and project management. Additionally, as a Human Resources representative for both profit and not-for-profit organizations, Jennifer enjoyed working as supervisor and trainer in a highly diverse workforce. The combination of workforce and managerial experience has proven invaluable in her current career as a Professor of Management.

In addition to teaching at FSW, Jennifer enjoys spending time in drafting and design and volunteering with Junior Achievement of SWFL. A true "Southerner," Jennifer is a native Floridian having spent much of her life in North Florida. In 2016, she was honored with the Heart of Junior Achievement Award for her volunteer work bringing entrepreneurial, career, and business-related skills to students in Lee and Collier county schools. An avid FSW basketball season-ticket holder, Jennifer enjoys attending the games, and she has enjoyed a great season.



**Allison Studer**  
Academic Assessment Analyst

Allison Studer joined FSW as Academic Assessment Analyst in August, 2015. She graduated from Ohio State University with a BSBA, specializing in human resources, and has a professional background in business and human resources. Originally from Ohio, she happily traded in those cold, snowy winters for white, sandy beaches. However, she continues to root for the Buckeyes, O-H-I-O!

She enjoys being an integral part of the FSW Office of Academic Assessment by working alongside Dr. Joe van Gaalen, the Academic Assessment Director. Together, they have been working diligently to complete Common Course Assessments for all the different departments throughout FSW. Allison looks forward to continuing to help the Learning Assessment Committee this spring as we look toward GenEd Competency Assessments and Spring Common Course Assessments.