

REACH



REACH Student
Success
Seminar
Training Plan

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What is REACH?



- REACH stands for Resources of Academic Achievement
- REACH is the primary academic support unit for most 100, 200, and 300 level courses at the University of Louisville.
- The primary mission of REACH is to provide academic support services and retention programs that encourage students to be independent and successful learners.
- One way REACH does this is through the REACH Student Success Seminars

REACH Student Success Seminars



- The REACH Student Success Seminars are 50 minute seminars offered each semester on topics such as:
 - Meeting the Challenge of Time
 - Becoming a Disciplined Student
 - Effective Note-taking
 - Learning Styles
 - Textbook Reading Skills
 - Acing the Test
 - Finals Prep
- The seminars are presented by the 16 graduate student assistants employed by REACH.

The Problem



- Through observations and and evaluations of the seminars we have noted the following problems:
 - Each GSA presents the seminars differently
 - The GSAs do not know how to use the technology and activities designed for each seminar.
 - The GSAs do not know how to lead the seminar discussions.
- Part of the problem is that we only offered a 1 hour session that included scheduling all the seminars. The GSAs had to review and practice on their own.

The Learner



- 16 Graduate Student Assistants
- Equal number of male & females
- Age range of 21-25
- Typically change year to year
- Various academic backgrounds
- Some cultural diversity

Key Objectives

- Upon the completion of the Student Success Seminar training
 - the GSA will explain correctly the importance of the Seminars to the mission of REACH.
 - the GSAs will demonstrate with 100% accuracy how to use the presentation equipment with no assistance.
 - the GSAs will prepare a summary of each seminar in 10 or less main points.
 - the GSA will recommend 1 seminar activity to help with the scenario without referring to the training materials.
 - the GSA will manage the discussions in the seminar so that the time of the seminar stays at 50 minutes or under.
 - the GSAs will demonstrate how to perform all steps in the post-seminar wrap up without using the training materials.



Key Objectives

- Using the results of the iClicker Assessment Questions, the GSA will recommend 3 appropriate study strategies to be used in each seminar without using the training material.
- Upon completion of the Meeting the Challenge of Time Seminar training, the GSAs will compose 3 personal examples of their time management skills to share in the Time Management seminar.
- Upon completion of the Becoming a Disciplined Student Seminar training, the GSAs will compose 3 personal examples of how they were a disciplined student to share in the Becoming Disciplined Student seminar.



Sample Instructional Methods



- Demonstrations of how to use the technology in the seminar room.
- Demonstration of the iClicker software. Trainees will also use the iClickers during training to become accustomed to them.
- Use the trainees responses on the iClickers to demonstrate how to select the appropriate strategies to discuss in the seminar.
- Scenarios with simulated discussion that the trainees will take turns leading.
- Videos of example issues that might arise in each seminar. Discussions of how to handle those issues.

Sample Instructional Methods



- Software simulations that allow the trainees to view, try, and then be tested for mastery of the content. Example at markwoolwine.com/seminarsim/
- Run through of each seminar so the trainee will have a good reference of how the seminar should be presented.
 - Presenter will demonstrate and use all the knowledge, skills, and abilities discussed during earlier parts of the training to demonstrate how they can all be used in the seminar.

Evaluation Plan



- Level 1- Training evaluation using the iClickers- Completed day of training
- Level 2- 8 question examination that will occur once training is complete.
- Level 3- Observations during seminars- use observation checklist to complete
- Level 4- Seminar evaluations- compare with last year to see if they improved.