Collaborative Learning supports student success in many ways.
Virtually all professions require teamwork.
Get going with collaborative learning!

Collaborative Learning Defined

- Learners working in groups of two or more,
- mutually searching for understanding, solutions, or meanings, or creating a product.

Key Features

1. Intentional design
2. Co-Laboring: All members must engage actively in working together toward stated objectives
3. Meaningful learning must also occur (not just effort): Must increase their knowledge or deepen their understanding of course content

Four Steps in Designing and Implementing Collaborative Learning

1. Think “Outcome.”
   - Study your course objectives.
   - Select an outcome that would benefit from collaborative learning.
   - Identify collaborative structures that will help students achieve the objective.
   - Create assessments.

2. Design the task.
   - Pick an activity that appeals to students as authentic and relevant.
   - Popular: End product that is shared with a larger (real-world) audience
   - Match the task to students’ academic and social skills.
   - Design the task to promote interdependence: Students need to rely on each other.
   - Design the task for group accountability.

3. Set the groups.
   - Partners or groups from 3 to 6 members.
   - Random or planned? If planned, does instructor pick, or do students?
   - If instructor picks, choose homogenous (such as same interest) or heterogeneous (such as different majors)

4. Set the stage and monitor.
   - Prepare students for the purpose and social environment of collaborative learning
   - Help them get to know each other.
   - Share the purposes of collaborative learning.
   - Connect collaborative learning with course objectives.
   - Give clear directions: What’s the big picture? What’s the Procedure?
   - Monitor throughout.
   - Everyone processes success for participation, social skill, and content mastery to reflect.