

FDC Quick Start Collaborative Learning

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*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.

