Peer Observation of Teaching Information Sessions

CEU Undergraduate Program/CTL

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Benefits of Peer Observation of Teaching

• Enhancement of teaching practice.
• Opening of **dialogue** through shared practice
• Exchange of effective techniques, the addressing of shared challenges in teaching contexts
• Reflection.
• Creation of community
• Room for experimentation
• Complementary to student evaluations
Peer Observations vs. Review

**Peer review of teaching (other institutions)**
- Method of assessing a portfolio of information about the teaching of an instructor under review, e.g., curricula vitae, student evaluations, self-evaluative statements, syllabi, assessments etc.
- **Summative** peer observations can feature in such a portfolio as part of personnel decisions

**Peer observations of teaching (CEU Undergraduate)**
- Voluntary and non-evaluative
- **Formative** peer observations - oriented solely towards the improvement of teaching
Step 1: Pre-Observation Preparation

• Find a peer, organize time
• Look through peer observation form
• Discuss any particular focus areas
• Optional: Share lesson plan
Step 2: Class Session Observation

- Beginning, middle, end of session
- Structure and design
- Overall effectiveness
- Key strengths & areas for potential development
What to observe (suggestions)

- Content knowledge
- Use of instructional materials, e.g., slides
- Presentation and/or discussion form and effectiveness
- Teacher-Student interactions
- Student participation & engagement
- Clarity of purpose, significance & what was learned
- Assessment practices, learning
Step 3: Post-Session Reflections

- Verbal (and written) feedback
- Two-way conversation
- Reflections by observee & observer
Making the Most of the Experience

• Right date for observation
• Focused observation
• Specificity of feedback examples & their significance
• Informality/exploratory nature of conversation
• Collegiality and highlighting positive elements
• Self-reflectiveness
Logistical Considerations

- Finding a peer
- Request to let CTL know about peer (ctl@ceu.edu)
- Option of CTL observation
- Informal (voluntary) debrief/feedback about experience
Support

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