Introduction to MT Engage for Faculty

Engage Academically. Learn Exponentially.
Showcase Yourself.

Outline

I. Defining MT Engage

MT Engage is…

MTSU's Quality Enhancement Plan that is focused on enhancing students' academic engagement by:

A. Providing students with <u>high-impact pedagogies</u>

B. Challenging students to use <u>integrative thinking and reflection</u> across multiple contexts and educational experiences.

Providing High-Impact Pedagogies

capstone courses/projects

internships

first year seminars

learning communities

writing intensive courses

collaborative assignments

undergraduate research

global learning

ePortfolios

service learning

project based learning

EXL

civic engagement

flipped classrooms

Reacting to the Past

education abroad

common intellectual experiences

Expanded from Kuh (2008)

Challenging Students to Use Integrative Thinking & Reflection
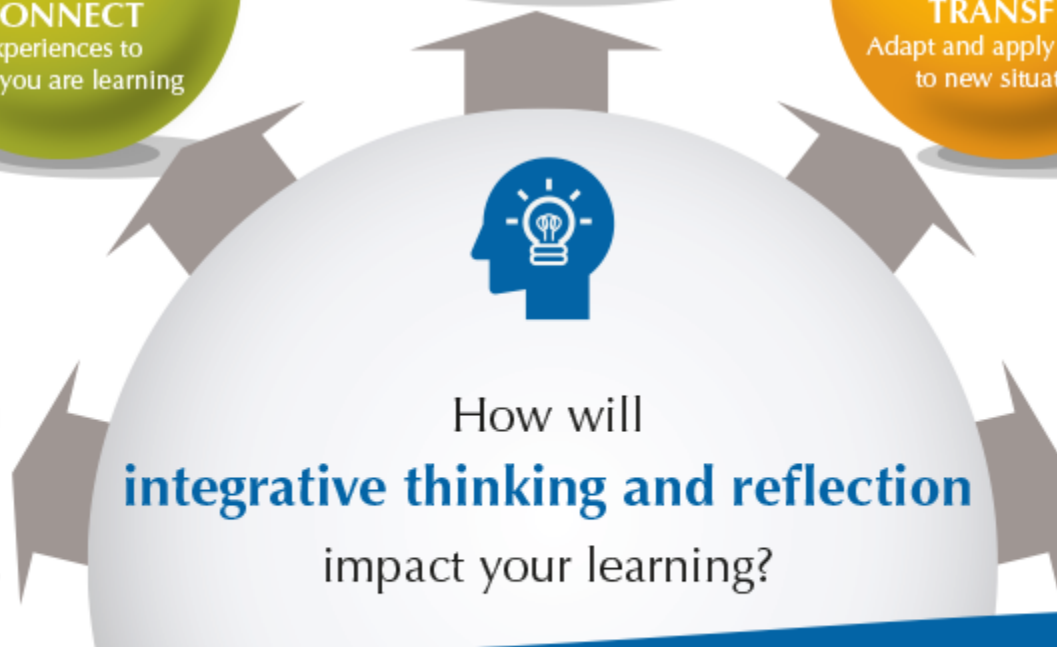
Students will be assessed on their ability to:

1) Make connections to relevant experiences

2) Make connections across academic disciplines

3) Adapt and apply information to new situations

4) Communicate information effectively

5) Reflect and self-assess

Modified from the AACU Integrative Thinking VALUE Rubric (2009)

MT Engage Integrative Thinking and Reflection

Engage Academically.
Learn Exponentially.
Showcase Yourself.

CONNECT
experiences to
what you are learning

DEVELOP
a sense of self as learner:
build on past experiences
to respond to
new challenges

TRANSFER
Adapt and apply learning
to new situations

CONNECT
what you are learning
with your discipline

How will
integrative thinking and reflection
impact your learning?

COMMUNICATE
effectively to enhance the
quality of assignments

All MT Engage courses will include...

1. High-impact pedagogy

2. At least one beyond-the-classroom experience

3. An ePortfolio artifact

4. Identified integrative thinking/ reflection indicators (from AACU VALUE Rubric)

Students in MT Engage courses…

1. Have no special prerequisites

2. May or may not have experience with MT Engage classes

3. May or may not know they are in an MT Engage class

4. May have sought out your MT Engage course in the system

II. Program Rationale

What is a QEP?

- A Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a core requirement for SACSCOC accreditation.

- The QEP is a 5-year initiative to improve student learning.

- **MT Engage** is MTSU's QEP for 2016-2021.

Development of MT Engage

Members of the **QEP Development Committee** solicited input and received feedback from students, faculty, administrators, and the larger community through meetings, open forums, and focus groups.

All divisions at MTSU have played a role in the development of MT Engage.

Why Integrative Thinking?

"Developing students' capacity for integrative learning is central to personal success, social responsibility, and civic engagement…Students face a rapidly-changing and ever-more-interconnected world, in which integrative learning becomes not just a benefit…but a necessity."

AACU (2004)

Why Reflection?

"A growing number of cognitive researchers and educational theorists have studied the reflective process and concluded that it is key to enriched student learning."

In *How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience and School*, Bransford et al. identify and examine "research that demonstrated the benefits of reflection for student learning in topics as diverse as **physics, writing and mathematics**, as well as for increasing the degree to which students **transfer their learning across disciplines and semesters**."

Eynon, Gambino, & Torok (2014)

III. MT Engage Initiatives

Faculty Support

1. Summer Institute

2. Workshops

3. Learning Communities

4. MT Engage Office

Student Support

1. MT Engage experiences

2. MT Engage Week

3. ePortfolio
   ◦ University Writing Center
   ◦ Walker Library's Digital Media Studio
   ◦ Career Development Center

Student Incentives

1. Buttons

2. Opportunity to be a mentor (1 credit practicum)

3. Eligibility for sophomore ePortfolio scholarship

4. Eligibility for senior ePortfolio cash award

5. Optional end-of-program interview

IV. Assessment

Student Learning Outcome

"Students will use integrative thinking and reflection to demonstrate the ability to make connections across multiple contexts and educational experiences."

MTSU (2016), p. 27

Program Goals

1. To foster a culture of engaged learning.

2. To improve student retention, progression, and graduation.

MTSU (2016), p. 55

Assessing & Documenting Integrative Thinking and Reflection

- ePortfolios: for showcasing student' integration of the knowledge, skills, and abilities gained at MTSU

- Rubrics: to assess integrative learning and reflection in the classroom and the ePortfolio

- Surveys: to assess student engagement and perceptions of knowledge, skills, and abilities

V. MT Engage Courses

Next Steps: Getting Involved

1. Submit an certification form to teach an MT Engage course

2. Identify your high-impact pedagogy

3. Identify your beyond the classroom experience

4. Identify the proposed ePortfolio artifact

5. Identify your integrative thinking/ reflection indicators

References

American Association of Colleges and Universities. (2004). Statement on Integrative Learning. Retrieved from http://evergreen.edu/washingtoncenter/docs/intlearning/statementintlearning.pdf.

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