

Learning to keep your “head above water” as a new instructor

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Ask Yourself:

- What items do/did you need to learn, plan for, and/or consider when teaching a new course as a new instructor?
- Does this magnify when you are working at a new institution?
 - Do you know their systems (e.g., LMS), course content, expectations, etc.?
- Are you aware of the resources available to you?



My Advice/Tips:

1. **DO NOT** re-invent the wheel.
 - Many instructors are doing wonderful things in their courses. If you are teaching a course that a colleague has taught previously, kindly ask them to share their materials with you.
2. Start with a baseline, and use the '+1' method.
 - We can spend hours upon hours improving our notes/slides/etc. But how does this translate to our students?
 - Add 1 new thing (e.g., an active learning activity; a different type of assessment) each time you teach a course.

My Advice/Tips:

3. Ask for help.

- In general, it may take 3-6 months to feel comfortable in a new job (but it can also take longer). Ask questions and find out what supports are available to you.

4. Find a mentor.

- Ask a colleague who has previously taught the course to be your mentor. What are the students like? Where do they struggle in the course? What misconceptions do they often have?
- If you can, ask this person to review your assessments (writing good assignments/tests/midterms/exams takes time and practice).

What other advice/tips
do **YOU** have for
new instructors?

