

IOWA

Student Success Team Meeting

February 11, 2025



Agenda

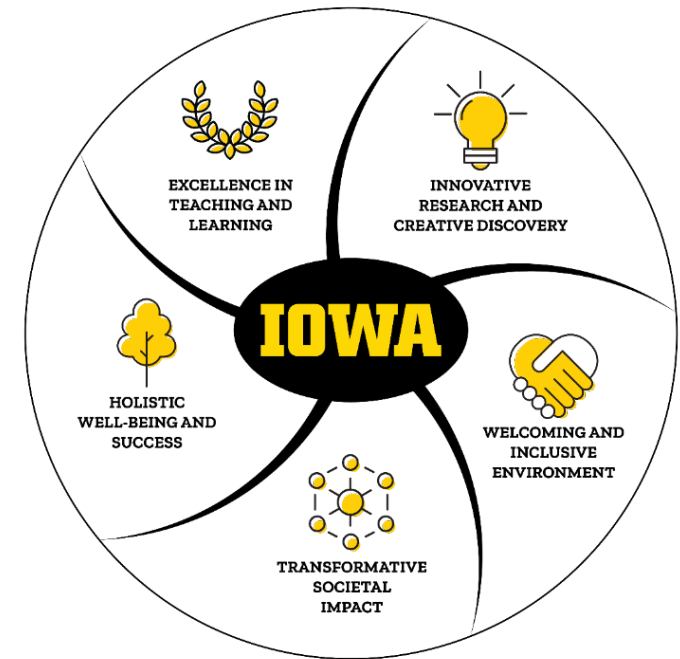
- Welcome
- Strategic Plan Connection and Updates
- People, Process, Technology: Accessibility Updates from OTLT
- Center for Teaching's Faculty Learning Community on Assessing Assessment
- Discussion

Student Success Team Mission

- The University of Iowa's Student Success Team develops ideas and implements initiatives that foster undergraduate achievement within a safe, engaging, and inclusive campus community.
- The Student Success Team is sponsored by the Division of Student Life, the Office of the Provost, and the Division of Access, Opportunity, and Diversity and coordinated by an executive committee that includes representatives from each area.

Reminder: Student Success in the UI Strategic Plan

- 2023-2024 academic year focused on an overview of various student success areas in the strategic plan
- 2024-2025 academic year focused on presentations, discussions, and workgroups regarding strategic plan areas to workshop/advance



Teaching and learning

Advising and guidance

High impact practices

Mentoring

Student access and enrollment

Financial support and employment

2024-2025 Update

- High-impact committee convened in January
- Mentoring committee will convene this semester
- SST invite this semester to connect with/visit Kirkwood Community College

Excellence in Teaching and Learning (ETL) Network

- Purpose is to support new and existing communities of faculty and staff involved in projects that will advance the University of Iowa as a leader in teaching and learning among research universities.
- Colleagues invited to join the ETL Network invited today to engage in broader discussions with SST about partnerships that span student and academic affairs units/departments.

Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology

People, Process, Technology: Accessibility Updates from OTLT

Student Success Team meeting, February 11 2025

Alex Adcock, alex-adcock@uiowa.edu

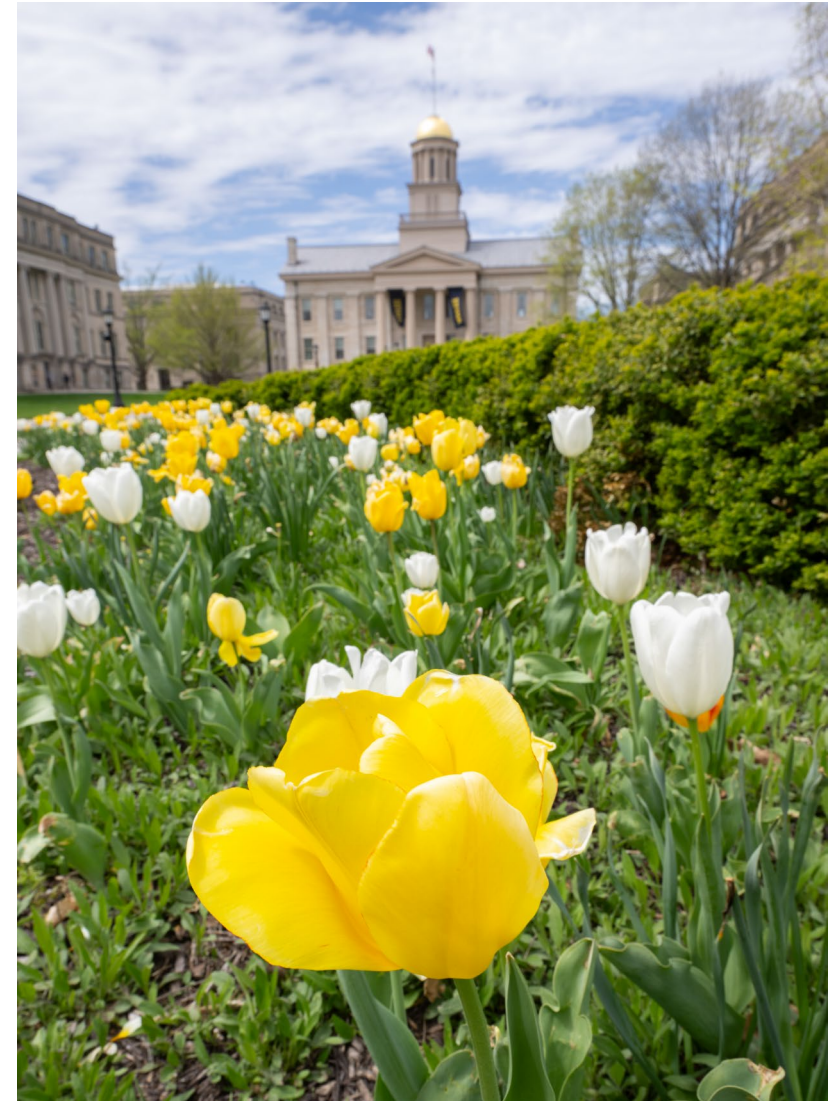
Maggie Jesse, maggie-jesse@uiowa.edu

eden jones, eden-jones@uiowa.edu

Dave Long, dave-long@uiowa.edu

Catalysts for Improvement

- 2022: U of I Accessibility Support Interest Group (**ASIAGO**) forms
- 2024: Campus-wide accessibility and accommodations **review completed and presented with recommendations**
- 2024: **ADA Final Rule for Digital Accessibility** issued by the Dept of Justice
- 2024: **Accessibility Task Force is charged** to ensure compliance by April 2026





Anthology Ally

Anthology Ally

- Current state: UDOIT



teach.its.uiowa.edu/udoit

→ Future state: Ally



teach.its.uiowa.edu/anthology-ally

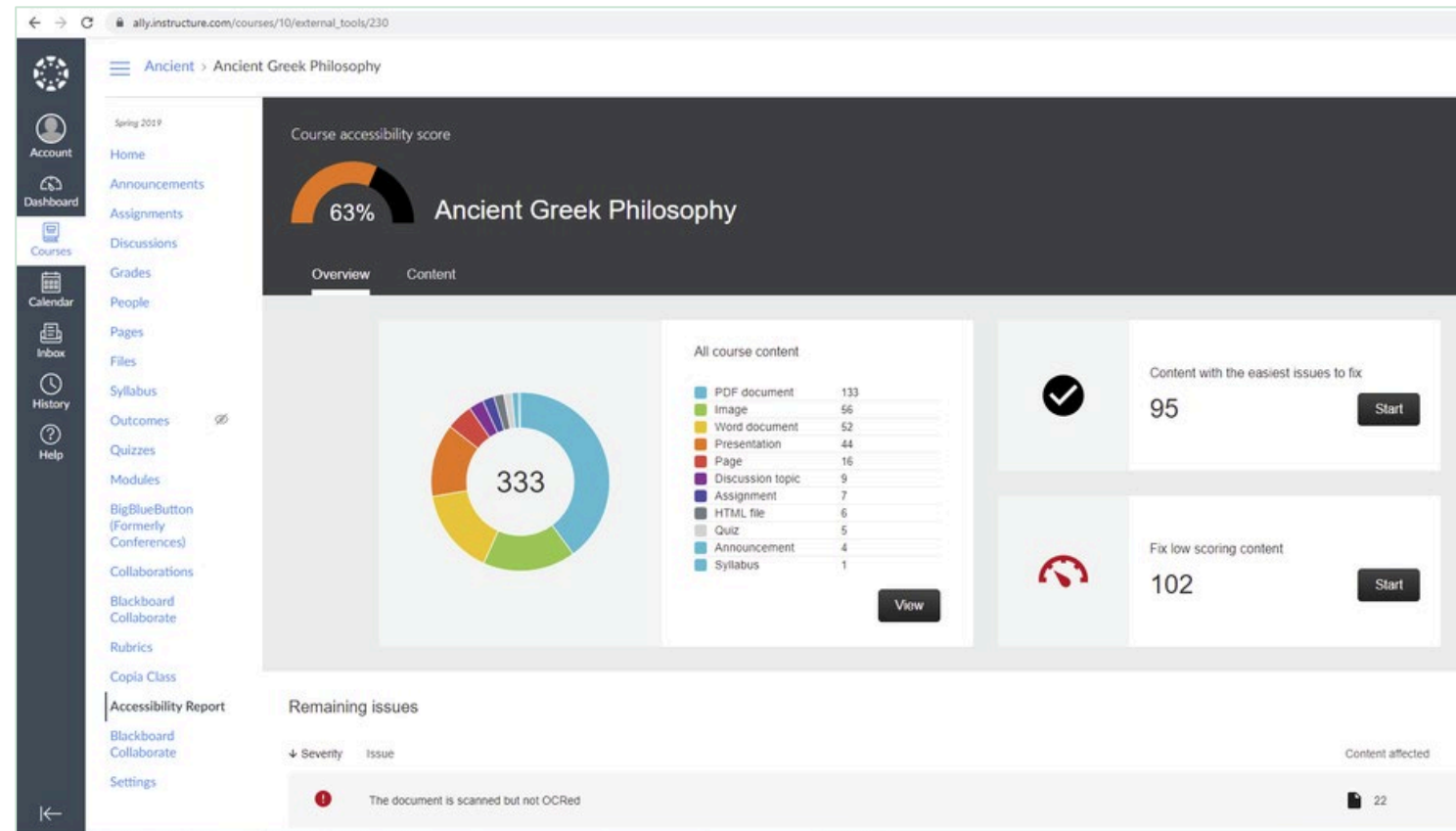
Who else is using Ally?

- Institutions using Ally
 - BTAA + Unizin: [Indiana](#), [Penn State](#), [Rutgers](#)
 - BTAA: [Michigan State](#), [Maryland](#)
 - Regents: [Iowa State](#), [UNI](#)
 - Unizin: [Chapman](#), [University of Florida](#)
- Better Ally pricing through the [Unizin](#) consortium



What does Ally do?

- Scans pages and files in ICON (Canvas)
- Helps instructors fix HTML
- Alternative file formats for students at the point of need
- Data and reporting



Anthology Ally Launch Timeline

→ January 2025

- Comprehensive communications plan:
 - Academic Advisory Council, Support Community for Instructional Technology, OneIT Executive Committee, Collegiate IT Directors, IT Admins, Student Success Team
- Emails, promotions
- ICON messages

→ January 2025: Piloting in 50~ courses

→ April 2, 2025

- ICON-wide availability



April 2, 2025

CAFÉ: Course Accessibility for Everyone

CAFÉ: Course Accessibility for Everyone

- Series of trainings covering major accessibility hurdles in both ICON and course documents
- Available in four training sessions through Compliance & Qualifications
- 120 minute 1-time sessions available for departments or units upon request
- 80+ attendees so far



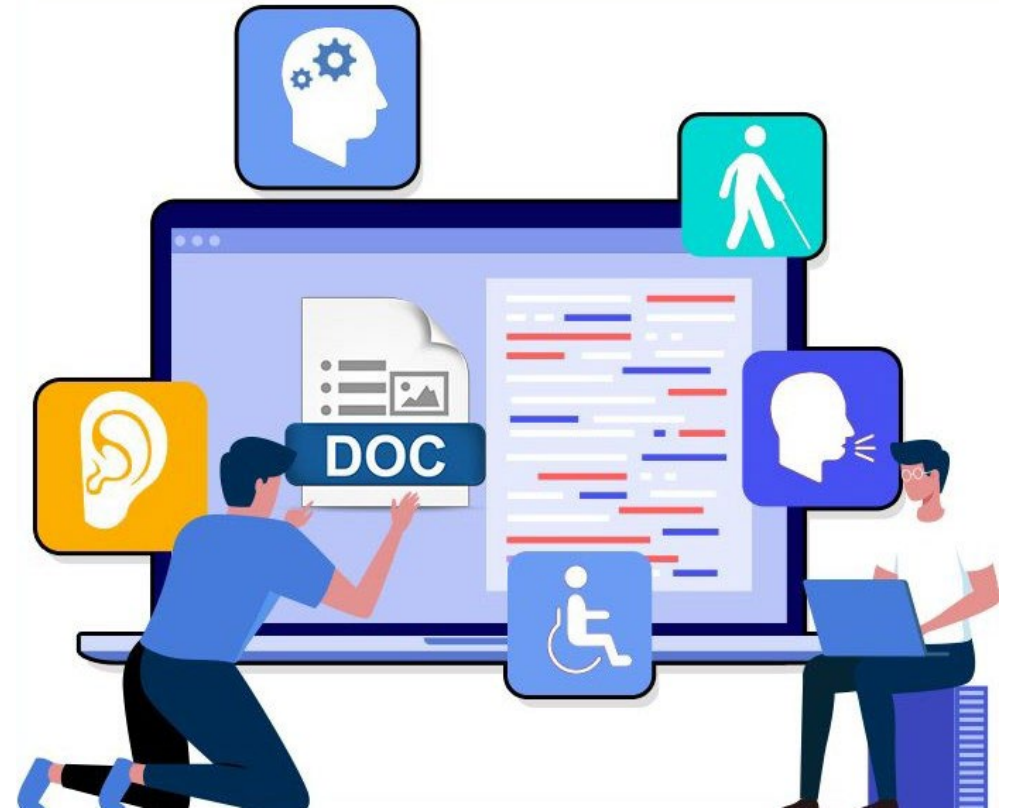
Accessibility issues covered

- Headings
- Links
- Lists
- Tables
- Color Contrast



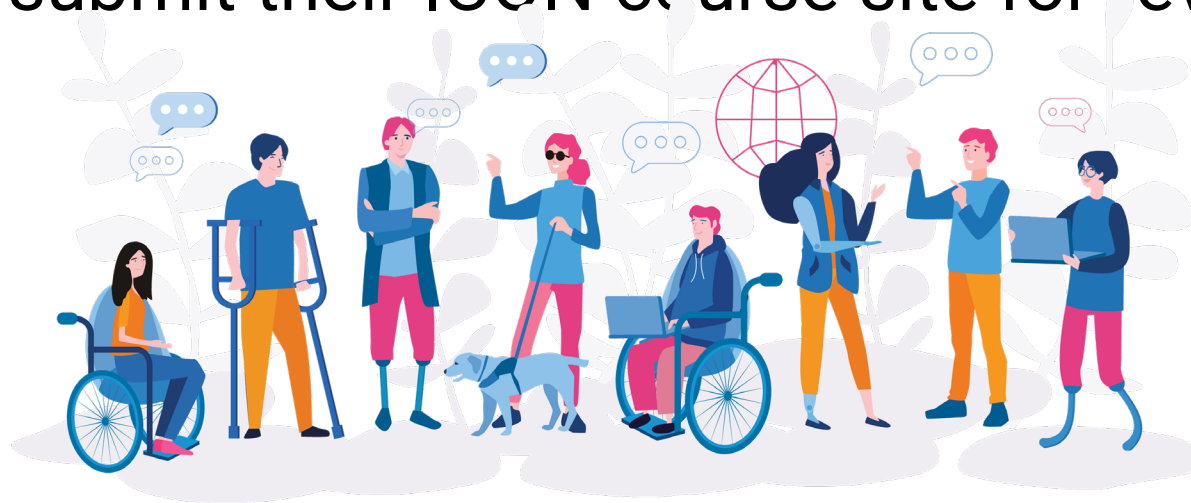
Accessibility issues, continued

- **Alternative Text**
- Video Captions, Descriptive Audio, and Audio Transcripts
- Document Accessibility:
.docx, .pptx, .pdf



CAFÉ moving forward

- Asynchronous course in development: planned for release end of February
- CAFÉ Baristas: recognition for instructors who complete training and submit their ICON course site for review with Ally





ICON Course Templates

Template impetus

- Spring 24: UI Accessibility Support Interest Group (ASIAGO) interviews and focus groups with students
 - Dominant theme: students value consistency and clarity
- Summer 24: ASIAGO accessibility and accommodations review completed, recommends creation of university-wide template



Template timeline

- Winter/Spring 25: Template created by OTLT with input from multiple campus partners
- Spring/Summer 25: first round of pilot with Summer courses
- Summer/Fall 25: wider pilot with Fall courses, automated delivery
- Winter 26: wide availability



Why a template?

- Not designed to replace existing unit templates
- Not intended as mandatory, but as a helpmeet
- Built to help ameliorate accessibility concerns and facilitate easy course site creation



Designed with focus on accessibility

- Meets all major accessibility best practices regarding headings, links, lists, tables, color contrast, alternative text, and audiovisual accessibility
- Includes guidelines on how to keep those best practices consistent across the course site



Designed for flexibility and ease of use

- Features instructions on how to duplicate items, create new ones, etc. for new or less ICON-savvy users
- Includes brand-compliant materials and instructions on how to implement them
- Does not include heavy HTML formatting for layout purposes
- Does not use tables for page layout

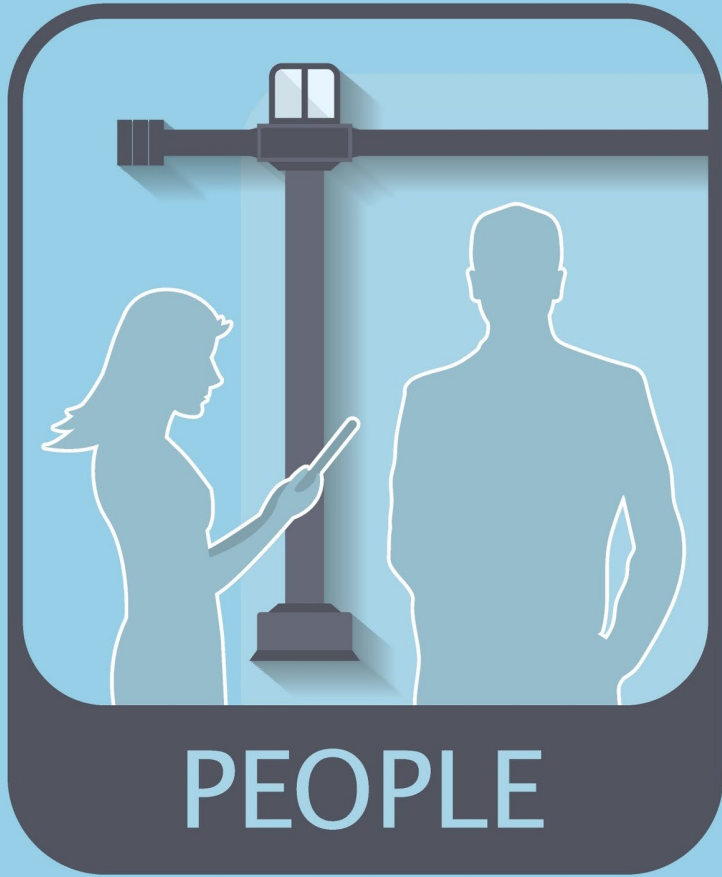


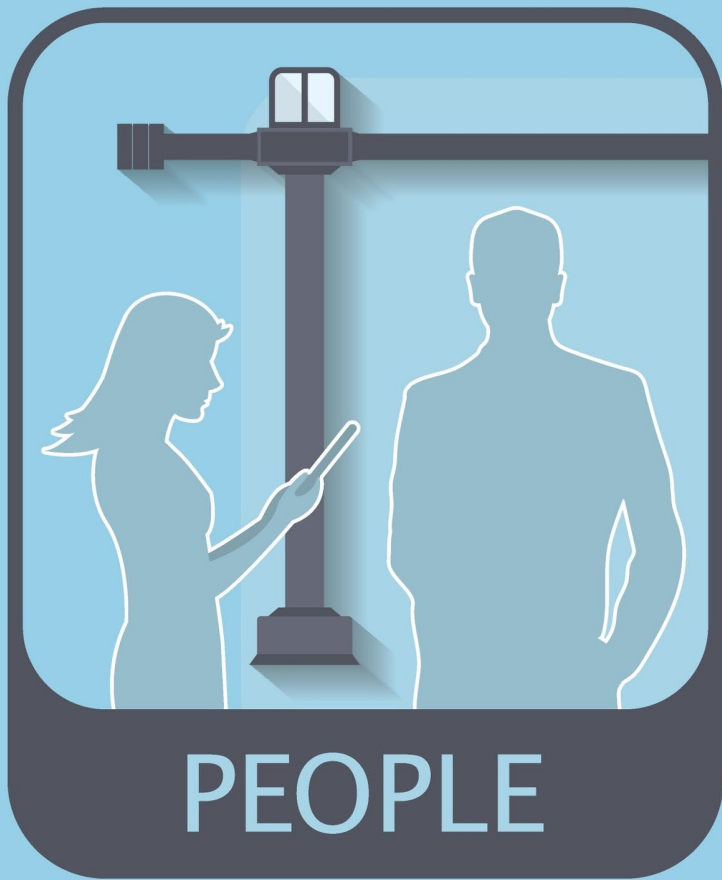
Captioning Services

New Captioning Services

- Human vs automated captions
 - Rev.com
- Fall 2024:
 - RFP for captioning providers
 - Cielo24 + second vendor
- Spring 2025:
 - Relaunching both captioning services
 - More service management and support
 - Groups pay for their own captions







**CAFÉ
Task Force**

**Ally
Captioning**

ICON Template

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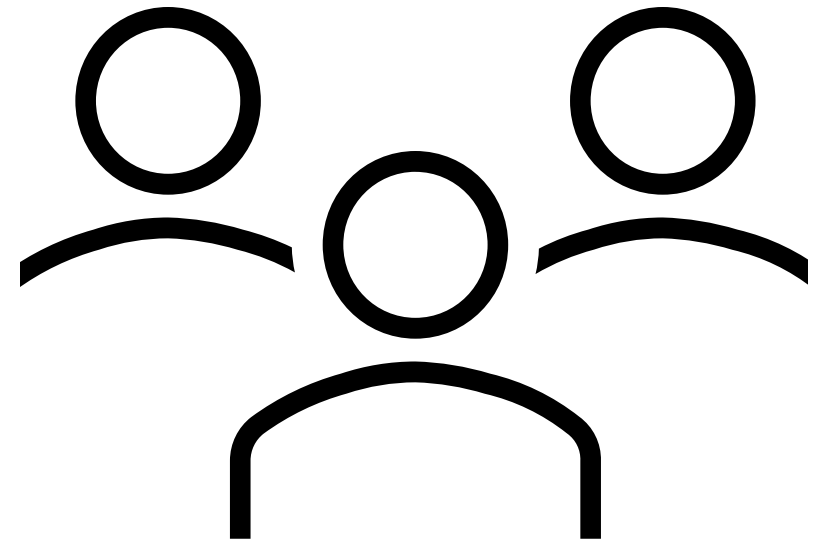
Center for Teaching's Faculty Learning Community on Assessing Assessment

Sara Nasrollahian

Jen Sterling

Pedagogical Faculty Communities

- Aim to enhance teaching and learning that entails opportunities for learning, development, scholarly teaching, and community building.
- Are convened and facilitated by faculty scholar-practitioners in collaboration with an expert from the Center for Teaching to contribute to fostering teaching and learning excellence.
 - Some of our faculty communities involve partnerships with other campus partners.
- Include a cross-disciplinary group of instructors.



Forms of Faculty Communities

Faculty Community of Practice (CoP)

- Aim to develop each instructor's knowledge and practice around a pedagogical topic

Faculty Learning Community (FLC)

- May have the additional goal to produce, disseminate, and promote the evidence-based teaching practice on campus.

Assessing Assessment to Enhance Student Motivation

- A group of faculty interested in assessing the value of traditional grading methods. The group discuss grading (its history and effects on students) and "alternative" assessment methods (e.g., ungrading, specification grading, etc.)
- Launched in 2021
- Faculty co-leads:
 - Jennifer Sterling, Ph.D., American Studies (2021 - present)
 - Andrew Forbes, Ph.D., Biology (2021 - 2023)
 - David Rehard, Ph.D., Biology (2021 – 2022)
- Center for Teaching Liaison: Sara Nasrollahian, Ph.D.
- Membership: 20

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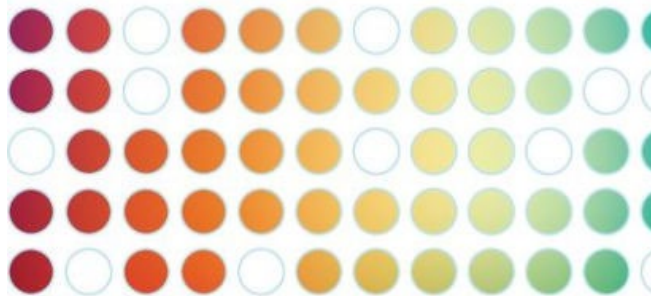
FLC Outcomes

Read books about alternative grading



UNgrading

Why Rating Students
Undermines Learning
(and What to Do
Instead)



EDITED BY

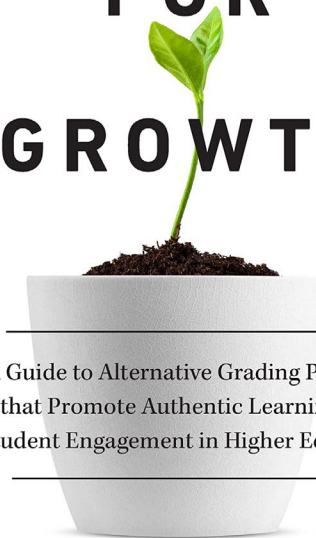
Susan D. Blum

With a foreword by Alfie Kohn

GRADING

FOR

GROWTH



A Guide to Alternative Grading Practices
that Promote Authentic Learning and
Student Engagement in Higher Education

DAVID CLARK AND ROBERT TALBERT

FOREWORD BY LINDA NILSON

Launched a Library Guide

Alternative Assessments: Home

This guide was created by the 2021-2022 "Assessing Assessment" University of Iowa Faculty Learning Community with support by the University of Iowa Center for Teaching and Learning.

- Home
- Books
- Articles & Book Chapters
- Web resources
- FLC Members' Recommended Reads

Assessing Assessment Faculty Learning Community Goals

To explore strategies for ensuring equity in assessment and helping students move away from grade-centered motivations for learning.

Guide resources

Guide resources were collected and used by FLC participants. This guide is by no means exhaustive.

-  [Grading Equitably by Center for Teaching and Learning for Spring 23 Workshop](#)

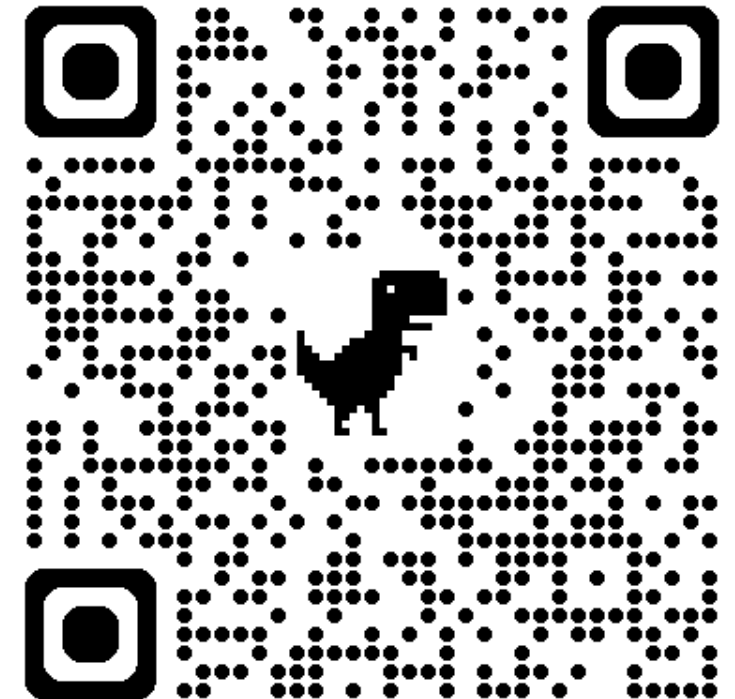
University of Iowa Alternative Assessment Contact

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teaching@uiowa.edu

Phone
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2800 University Capitol Centre
200 South Capitol Street
Iowa City, IA 52242
United States

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200 South Capitol Street
Iowa City, IA



Contributed to new CLAS Guidelines for Grading

IOWA

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

CLAS Policies and Procedures

[Table of Contents](#)

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Grades: Undergraduate Policies

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Amended 03/2024

Key Contacts

If you have questions, please contact [CLAS Undergraduate Programs](#).

Applicability

Instructors

Policy Purpose and Description

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Facilitated a Panel Discussion about Alternative Grading in Spring 2023

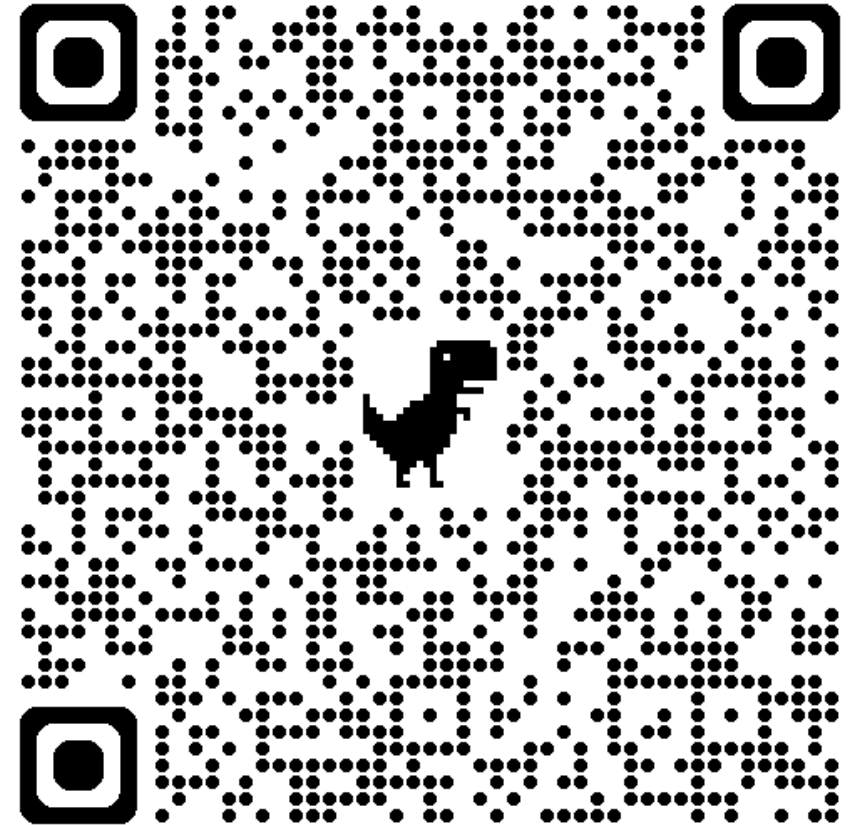
Co-facilitators:

Center for Teaching Staff:

- Katherine Beydler, Ph.D.
- Sara Nasrollahian, Ph.D.
- Anastasia Williams, Ph.D.

Panelists:

- Katie DeVries, M.A., Social Sciences Librarian, UI Libraries; Adjunct Lecturer, School of Library and Information Science
- Andrew Forbes, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biology
- Elizabeth Heineman, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair, History; Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies
- Jennifer Sterling, Ph.D., Lecturer, American Studies

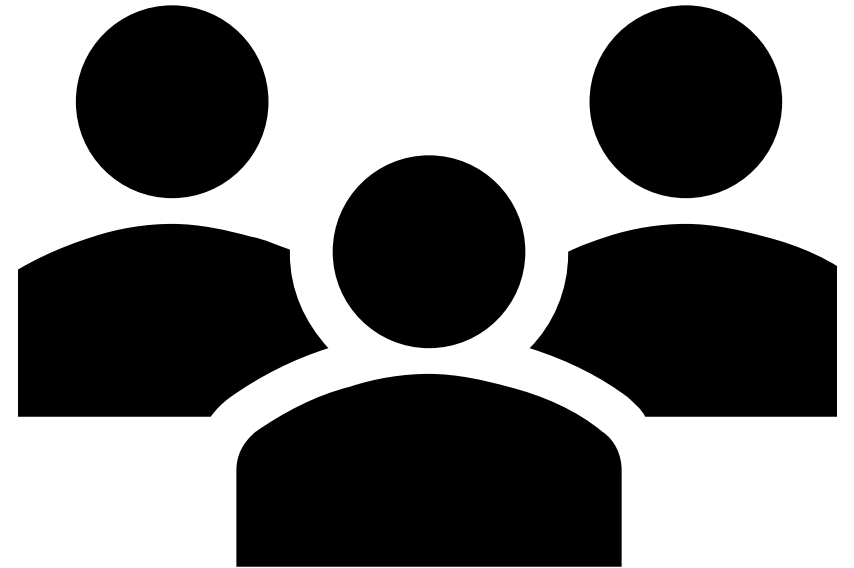


Facilitated a Panel Discussion with Graduate Students in Spring 2024

The conversation focused on graduate teaching assistants' experience with using alternative grading methods and strategies in the classes they teach.

Current Status

- We are planning for once a semester events.
- We will invite the members to form working groups to explore and practice using alternative grading methods.



Interested in joining or starting a faculty community on teaching and learning?

Please contact us at
Teaching@uiowa.edu

Faculty Communities Webpage



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Discussion

1. In view of the continually changing landscape of higher education, what aspects do you observe to be influencing student learning this year (both in and out of the classroom) that may differ from previous years (e.g. continuing pandemic effects, learning how to navigate AI)?
2. How can you work with colleagues across campus to enrich student learning and the holistic student experience beyond traditional academic or divisional structures?
3. As we look toward the last two years (years four and five) in the UI Strategic Plan, what appears to be working well to advance student success? What else could we, as a campus, focus on in years four and five?