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Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning_Community of Practice Webpage

University of Maine Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

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Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

[What's New: Brightspace!](#) [CITL](#) [About Us](#) [Events & Programs](#) [Faculty Support](#) [Instructional Design](#) [Teaching Resources](#) [More](#)

Events & Programs

Calendar of all Teaching & Learning Events

Brightspace

Pedagogical Workshops

Online Teaching & Learning Six-Part Virtual Series

Communities of Practice

Training on Educational Technologies

Graduate Student Development Opportunities

Conferences on Teaching & Learning

Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Teaching

Join A Community of Practice Below!

What is a Community of Practice?

“Groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.”

– [Wenger-Trayner, 2015](#)

[Communities of practice](#) were first defined in 1991 by [Lave & Wenger](#), and have grown in their popularity and application since that time. In educational settings, CoPs have become powerful models for growth and change in [higher education](#).

They help to build community, provide a sense of belonging, enhance cross-discipline collaboration, and promote knowledge and innovation.

CoPs center around a defined shared interest or experience faculty want to explore. CoPs in higher education can be topic based, for example faculty might want to learn more about issues of academic honesty, classroom management, or the scholarship of teaching and learning. CoPs can also be cohort based such as CoPs for adjunct faculty, faculty new to the UMaine community, or pre-tenured faculty. Regardless of the model, the topics of exploration and discussion are driven by the interests and needs of participating faculty.

A primary value of these communities is **shared knowledge**. Though informal, CoPs are most effective when participants participate in *sustained* interactions, either face to face or virtual.

When you register for a CoP you are registering for all events in the series – so please mark your calendars and plan accordingly! We can accomodate virtual meetings with advanced notice when needed. Explore your options, find a group, and grow in your teaching practice alongside your friends and colleagues!



Active Learning
Strategies (ALS CoP)
Online



Online Teaching
Community of
Practice

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)
1st Floor - Fernald Hall
Orono, ME 04469

Tel: 207.581.3333
citl@maine.edu

