

Digital Supplement Instruction Modules (DSIM)

Title III Faculty Fellows

Thirty introductory-level courses were identified as having high rates of D, E (failure), and W (withdraw) grades. Title III Faculty Fellows are members of the Buffalo State faculty who teach one or more sections and participate in the design and implementation of Digital Supplemental Instruction Modules (DSIM) for these courses.

Dr. John Draeger (Dept. of Philosophy and Director of the Teaching and Learning Center) and Meghan Pereira (Director of Instructional Design and Training) coordinate the development of DSIMs. Design Teams consist of campus staff/faculty in support of the professional development programming and instructor need. Fellows are compensated for their contributions. Student use of the DSIMs is tracked and used to assess its impact on student success rates. If the DSIMs improve student success, they will be available to use in other sections of the course.

Step by Step Plan

The goal of the Digital Supplemental Instruction Module (DSIM) program is to develop resources to enhance the student experience in the identified gateway courses. The aim is to both support essential learning and improve retention, persistence, and graduation rates of students in those courses. For example, these materials can provide students with additional pathways for learning (e.g., videos and podcasts that provide an alternative way of presenting the material found in the course reading), remedy gaps in understanding (e.g., modules that link to material in previous courses), reinforce material across courses (e.g., reflection activities that build connections across within a program of study or across the general education curriculum), and facilitate further exploration (e.g., materials that allow student to explore course content in more depth). These materials will eventually be available to all instructors teaching the identified courses through an online repository.

In 2019, the Teaching and Learning Center teamed up Instructional Design and Training to offer a summer long program that guided faculty fellows through the design process. Fellows received \$2,000 for their participation and they were expected to produce at least four supplemental modules that could be piloted during the fall 2020 semester.

The summer sessions began with a two-hour orientation session over lunch. Fellows were prompted to take a deep dive into their courses in order to think through what is most essential. They were given worksheets that guided them through a course mapping exercise that would be continually updated throughout the summer. Fellows then participated in four sessions lasting approximately three hours each. The sessions had a theme (e.g., essential course concepts, necessary skills for success in the course, difficult content). The sessions were collaboratively facilitated by Teaching and Learning Center and Instruction Design and Training. Fellows were given plenty of worktime with at least four facilitators

available to answer questions. Faculty were encouraged to share progress updates. Facilitators checked-in after the sessions were concluded and then at several points in the fall semester. At the end of the fall semester, both faculty and students in the select courses complete short surveys about the efficacy of the digital materials (with all survey logistics handled by members of the Title III team). Fellows met in January, 2020 to discuss the survey results and plan next steps.

Faculty Fellow Cohort 1, Year 1 (2019-2020)

- Sarbani Banerjee – CIS 151
- Bruce Fisher – ECO 101
- Kimberly Kamper-DeMarco – PSY 101
- Siobhan McCollum – ANT 101
- Sue McMillen – MAT 121
- Ramona Santa Maria – CIS 101
- Richard Strahan – SOC 100
- Mary Beth Sullivan – CWP 101
- Natalie Szymanski – CWP 102
- Greg Wadsworth – BIO 111

Design Team, Year 1 (2019-2020)

- Dr. John Draeger - Dept. of Philosophy and Director of the Teaching and Learning Center
- Meghan Pereira - Director of Instructional Design and Training
- Todd Benzin - Educational Technology Specialist, Instructional Design and Training
- Brooke Winckelmann - Instructional Designer, Instructional Design and Training
- Joe Riggie – Head, Information Management, Butler Library
- Tim Jones - IT Help Desk Assistant + Trainer, Information Technology Services

In May 2020, select faculty fellows from Cohort 1 began refining the digital materials developed in summer 2019 and piloted in fall 2019. Each fellow met with members of the Teaching and Learning Center and Instructional Design and Training to assess needs and formulate a game plan. The adapted materials will be piloted in fall 2020. They will be collected in an online repository for sharing to other Buffalo State faculty members by spring 2021.

Faculty Fellow Cohort 1, Year 2 (2020-2021)

- Sarbani Banerjee – CIS 151
- Kimberly Kamper-DeMarco – PSY 101
- Siobhan McCollum – ANT 101
- Mary Beth Sullivan – CWP 101
- Lori Ann Woods – CWP 102
- Greg Wadsworth – BIO 111

Faculty Fellow Cohort 2 & 3, Year 1 (2021-2022)

- Anthony Jones - BUS201
- Sourav Biswas - CHE110
- Jennifer Ryan-Bryant - ENG151
- Judith Harris – EXE100
- Steve Peraza – HIS 106
- Bridget Chesterton – HIS 231
- Abdollah Hajikandi - MAT103
- Robin O'Dell - MAT114
- David Abbott - PHY
- Dan MacIsaac - PHY
- Staci Newmahr – SOC240
- Julie Carter – SPF203
- Maureen Porter – THA106
- Tamara McMillan - CRS205
- Erica Demler – Math Tutor
- Ashley Martin – Student Engagement
- Daniel Blum – UNC100

If you have questions about the program, please contact John Draeger (draegejd@buffalostate.edu) or Meghan Pereira (pereirme@buffalostate.edu).