

WHO IS DIIA?

The **Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment** provides a continuum of support for students and faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. From Freshman Orientation to Graduate Student Instructor programs to Faculty colloquia and workshops, DIIA researches and supports best teaching practices, innovative instructional technologies, and effective assessment methods.



New and current faculty can rely on DIIA for the latest information in teaching and learning techniques, classroom management, appropriate technology, and assessment approaches that will enhance student engagement and critical thinking skills.

Do you seek to...

- **Share** your best practices for teaching and learning?
- **Engage** students in small discussions as well as large lecture sections?
- **Explore** teaching with technology ideas that inspire your students?
- **Integrate** effective assessment throughout your class?
- **Manage** a teaching portfolio for your tenure review?

RESEARCH + INNOVATION

Teaming with UT Austin faculty innovators, DIIA supports innovative pedagogy through research, assessment, and presentation of new teaching methods and instructional technologies. Such joint initiatives as peer-to-peer teaching, asynchronous on-demand learning, virtual world simulations, course lecture webcasting, and collaborative information spaces reflect DIIA's commitment to implementing and evaluating emerging best practices.



The DIIA seminar series **Sharing What Works** ensures that word gets around about teaching practices that make a difference, such as the large classroom initiative, enhancing communication through technology, dodging death by PowerPoint, refining tools for detecting and preventing plagiarism, and using wikis and blogs to make students active learners.

DIIA's **Second Life** pilot study has been the catalyst for exciting approaches to using gaming technologies and virtual environments to enrich the classroom experience and support student-centered instruction.

DIIA's **webcasting** pilot study has been the genesis for providing online tools for faculty to readily solve class scheduling conflicts, provide optional learning opportunities, present additional materials, and allow students access for reviewing lectures. By automating many time consuming production tasks, DIIA's webcasting resources have been a hit with faculty and students.

COURSE MANAGEMENT

DIIA has the right tools and training to help you organize and manage your courses more effectively, with hands-on training, consulting, and online tutorials for **Blackboard** and **eGradebook**.

Blackboard features several tools to greatly ease the task of building an interactive course site, such as the assignment manager, course calendar, gradebook, and announcement and faculty information pages. With eGradebook, faculty and their designees can use a confidential format based on the UT EID to provide feedback on assignments and post grades.

To manage complex response data from tests, you can use DIIA's **scanning services** to receive an item analysis, useful for improving multiple-choice tests and for uploading scores into eGradebook or Blackboard.

Research is ongoing at DIIA to extend the usefulness of Blackboard by developing tools customized for UT Austin.



STUDENT TESTING SERVICES

Students and faculty depend on DIIA for **on-campus testing services** and assistance in processing classroom tests.

At the summer and fall orientation sessions for freshman and transfer students, DIIA's student development specialists provide counseling about testing policies and administer exams for hundreds of incoming students. Throughout the year, DIIA specialists field thousands of inquiries from present and former UT Austin students about policies for **placement testing** and **credit by examination**.



DIIA also serves diverse clients from off campus as well, including prospective students and their families, high school counselors, and members of the wider community. DIIA administers local and national examinations in paper and computer formats, including SAT subject tests and exams from the CLEP, IB, and AP programs.

DIIA serves UT Austin administrators by coordinating the program for credit by examination, including publishing policy information, administering exams, posting scores, facilitating petitioning for credit, and performing research to serve as input for departmental decisions on establishing qualifying scores.

TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

DIIA's multimedia specialists help UT Austin faculty in many disciplines integrate new teaching media into their courses, and the DIIA team supervises fully-equipped video and audio production studios. Explore the effective use of established and emerging educational media technologies at one of DIIA's media workshops or showcase events. Or enjoy a one-on-one consultation in the **Digital Media Lab** or in your office.



DIIA can also schedule your students for hands-on training in the Digital Media Lab to prepare them for individual and group projects, so you can concentrate on teaching your course, not media literacy.

Digital Media Services supports your integration of media assignments into course design to energize students' learning while improving their media sophistication. Students accomplished in media production can return the favor through DIIA's **Faculty and Student Teams for Technology (~FAST Tex)** initiative, which pairs technology-savvy students with faculty members who wish to develop and integrate new teaching media.

And once you've seen the impact of teaching with technology, you can share your experience with colleagues and be recognized at the annual **Innovative Instructional Technology Awards Program (IITAP)**, an initiative of the provost to show his strong commitment to technology-enhanced learning.

FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

The DIIA team includes a number of staff members with broad teaching experience in higher education who are dedicated to support, partner, and collaborate with UT Austin faculty to research, pilot, and implement best practices in teaching, technology, and testing.

At DIIA's frequent workshops, seminars, collaboratives, colloquia, and professional development series, colleagues gather to share experiences, trade insights, expand networks, and sound out new ideas.

Whatever the time of the year, the calendar includes a DIIA event that promotes excellence in teaching and learning.

- Fall: **New Faculty Teaching, Learning, and Orientation Seminar**
- Spring: **Teaching and Learning Colloquium**
- Monthly: **Collaborative for Instructional Impact**
- Monthly: **Faculty Development Series**
- Weekly: **Instructional Technologies Workshops**
- Daily: **One-on-One Consulting** and **On-Demand Group Workshops**

You're not alone when you're working to accommodate learning styles, address instructional design, consider assessment approaches, master emerging technology, or improve large classroom management. There's a DIIA team member ready to consult with you to support your efforts to engage students through pedagogy that makes a difference.



INSTRUCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

DIIA's experts in instructional and program assessment are available to help you systematically examine all aspects of classroom instruction. You can receive advice on a range of pedagogical issues, including conceiving course goals, engaging students in large classes, interpreting student feedback, accommodating student learning styles, and using research to improve course design and delivery.



The next best thing to consulting DIIA's instructional assessment specialists is to access the tools at DIIA's unique, innovative web site for **Instructional Assessment Resources (IAR)**. First of its kind in the nation, the site contains guidance for planning, implementing, and reporting research in four critical areas: evaluation of programs, assessment of students, technology, and teaching. With the step-by-step narratives in plain language, you can gain insight into the effectiveness of your teaching and the richness of your students' learning.

With DIIA's **Ongoing Course Assessment** tool, you can administer anonymous student surveys at any time during the semester for immediate feedback. DIIA coordinates the university-wide program for the **Course-Instructor Survey**, including tracking instructor requests, assembling materials, receiving and scanning forms, distributing results to the schools and colleges, and assisting faculty and administrators in interpreting results.