Faculty Course Modification Incentive Grant (FIG) Program

Examples of Course Modifications

- Clickers used during problem solving (for ex., a multiple-choice question is presented, followed by discussion if the correct answer does not predominate)
- Target at-risk students in MLA-led help sessions
- Use of new technology
- Revamping lab sequence; modifying lab manuals; creating new tutorial labs to ensure good laboratory skills
- Instituting review sessions
- Development of rubrics and rubric score sheets for evaluating student writing and group projects
- Using a group portion in exams. (Students first take the exam as individuals, this portion is worth 85% of their grade. Then they turn in their bubble sheets, get into groups and retake the exam while talking with their peers. This portion is worth 15% of their grade.)
- Flipping the classroom: students watch videos (and take short Blackboard quizzes) prior to class. Classtime is spent on clicker questions and group work. MLAs and TAs work with groups during class.

Examples of Roles for Maine Learning Assistants (MLAs)

MLAs meet with the instructors weekly to practice solving weekly problem sets, discuss classroom activities, plan, and go over some conceptually difficult concepts.

They can also:

- Facilitate peer-discussions and group work in the lecture component of the course, helping to keep students on task.
- Help facilitate discussions during problem solving with ‘clicker’ questions or worksheets.
- Provide feedback to instructor on student progress and reactions to course content.
• Provide support with tutorials or activities.
• Help provide students with answers to their questions in a timely manner.
• Provide continuous feedback from students, or stop the flow of lecture to ask questions when they sense that students are lost.
• Help vet all assignments and exams; ensure quiz and exam questions are clear and focused.
• Help during lab, tutorial and recitation sections; lead help sessions designed for at-risk students; lead review sessions; act as software/data analysis tutors; lead homework help sessions.
• Test modified labs and provide feedback on the materials (e.g., on the clarity of the questions, the feasibility of the tasks, and unexpected pitfalls); offer suggestions for modifications based on their own experiences.
• Attend all lectures; serve as role models by participating in class discussions and clicker-based activities; demonstrate effective note taking.