

The University of Maine

University Classroom Observation Program

The University Classroom Observation Program (UCOP) invites local middle and high school STEM teachers to the university to observe a variety of STEM courses. The program's goal is to develop a clearer understanding of the current state of teaching and learning in UMaine STEM courses by observing and documenting what occurs in the classroom. The program also serves to provide experiences and networking opportunities for STEM teachers to reflect with one another on their own teaching.

Summary of Course Observations (2014-2016)

UMaine Departments Involved

Biology and Ecology; Chemical and Biological Engineering; Chemistry; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Computer Sciences; Earth Sciences; Ecology and Environmental Sciences; Economics; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Electrical Engineering Technology; Food and Agriculture; Forest Resources; Marine Sciences; Mathematics and Statistics; Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering Technology; Molecular and Biomedical Sciences; New Media; Nursing; Physics and Astronomy; Plant, Soil, and Environmental Science; Psychology; and Wildlife, Fisheries & Conservation Biology

Totals

Courses observed = 137

UMaine instructors = 149

UMaine Departments = 28

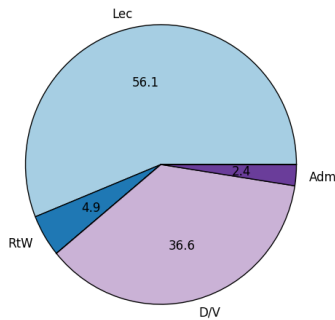
Middle/High School teachers = 65

Schools represented by teachers = 60

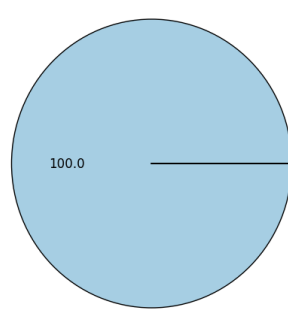
Course Observation Results

Lecture-based class example

Instructor doing:

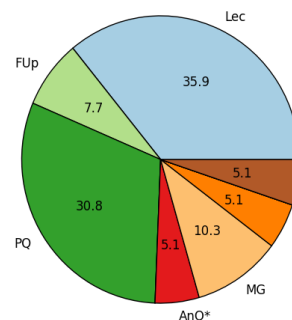


Students doing:

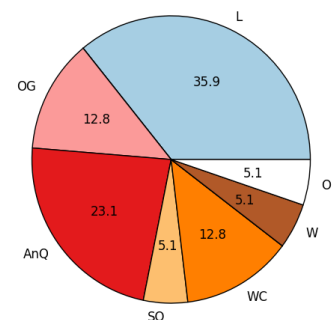


Student-centered class example

Instructor doing:



Students doing:



Professional Development for STEM Instructors at the University of Maine

- 1) Data-driven design and implementation of campus-wide STEM professional development sessions
- 2) STEM Faculty Collaborative peer observation program modeled after benefits documented for middle and high school teachers during UCOP observations
- 3) One-on-one meetings to discuss observation results, questions about teaching practices, suggestions, etc.
- 4) Opportunities for faculty to interact with middle and high school teachers

Teacher Feedback

100% of teachers agree with the statements:

- I am participating in the University Classroom Observation Program to improve STEM education at the University of Maine.
- It is personally rewarding to know that UMaine is interested in the data generated from this program.
- I enjoy observing UMaine STEM courses.
- The University Course Observation Program experience has helped me reflect on my own teaching.
- Participation in this program has made me more aware of my own teaching practices.
- I would like to participate in this program in future years.

Teachers' thoughts about the UCOP experience:

"I have gained confidence in my own teaching and have continued to make connections with other teachers"

"I like that I feel I have made a difference"

"I get to see various styles of instruction in a university setting where my students are most likely to attend"

"Beyond reflection of my own practices, I enjoy the conversations with peers about what effective teaching looks and feels like"