The following guidelines can help you decide if a wiki is appropriate for your course and if it is, what course preparation is needed.

**ALIGNING THE USE OF A WIKI WITH YOUR COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The learning goals and outcomes for your course will help you decide if the wiki is the right tool for the kinds of assignments and activities you have planned.

- If you are considering using a wiki in your course, develop your instructional strategy and course design first. The use of the wiki should flow from the learning objectives and support them.
- Consider how the wiki might help your students achieve the learning objectives you are setting for them. Not all courses are suited for using a wiki.
- Past experience has shown that wikis may be better suited for mid-level courses where students already have basic knowledge of subject matter, or are comfortable operating independently to initiate assignments.

**PREPARE YOURSELF TO USE THE WIKI**

Proper planning and time spent in the beginning will lead to greater success; spend time in your wiki getting to know the environment before introducing it to students.

- Request and experiment in a personal wiki space before requesting a course wiki.
- Expect to spend at least 5-10 hours developing a plan for your course wiki and becoming familiar with editing and navigating within the wiki.
- Start small. The RIT Wiki (Confluence) offers a lot of functionality, but if you try to use too many features, you and your students may find it overwhelming.
- If you are unsure about how to do something in your wiki, request assistance through the Teaching and Learning Studio or use the RIT wiki technical documentation as a guide.

**DEVELOP YOUR COURSE WIKI**

Once you are familiar with the wiki’s interface and features, spend some time structuring your
wiki space in a way that best supports your specific course activity or assignment.

- Create a homepage or starting point for your course wiki; include clear instructions and navigation so that students know where to begin and how to get around the wiki.
- Create skeletal page structures (where appropriate) for students to fill in (e.g., a template for a learning activity such as a case study).
- Pre-populate your wiki with content, as is appropriate.
- Remember, you can edit and rearrange the order and layout of pages as much you need to while developing your wiki’s layout and structure.
- Required wiki assignments tend to produce more student activity and better results than optional assignments – structure your learning activities with this in mind.