

COURSE DESIGN

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

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Collaborative learning encompasses a broad spectrum of instructional activities in which students to work together to achieve common educational goals. Collaborative learning environments can range from a one-minute writing exercise shared with a partner to a semester-long group project culminating in a final team presentation to the entire class.

Collaborative learning activities give students opportunities to develop stronger connections to the class, and to RIT, through the relationships they develop in small group activities.

Benefits of Collaboration

Interest in collaboration is a natural outgrowth of the trend in education toward active learning, where students become involved in constructing their own knowledge through discovery, discussion, and expert guidance. Collaboration affords students the opportunity to share thoughts and interact with peers, facilitators, and experts in a field.

Effective collaborative learning environments...

- Promote critical thinking skills
- Promote creative thinking through social stimulation and sharing of ideas
- Require active student involvement in the learning process
- Increase preparation and practice for working with others
- Provide a safe place for questions
- Create a more personal environment in large classes
- Provide a social support system for students
- Build diversity understanding among students
- Develop team skills used on the job and beyond

[Teaching Elements](#) include in-class collaborative activities.

You can also read about [collaborative learning in online courses](#).