

TEACHING ELEMENTS

WIKI ACTIVITY: INSTRUCTOR PREPARATION

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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.