



ACUE

Student Success
Through Exceptional
Teaching

Syllabus Activities

Consider using one of the following activities to provide an active learning introduction to the syllabus and to ensure students are thoroughly reviewing the syllabus. These practices can be used in face-to-face, online, or hybrid courses.

Syllabus Reconnaissance

1. Hand out, post, or email a copy of the syllabus and tell students they will be doing a reconnaissance of it. Ask students if and where they've heard the term reconnaissance before and share the definition.
2. Tell students that they will have 10 minutes. They should spend the first 2–3 minutes quickly scanning the syllabus, highlighting or underlining key points. Then they should read through the entire syllabus and place a star next to five facts they feel are most important to remember.
3. Have students form small groups, create breakout rooms online, or post to a discussion forum to share their selections and compare them to their groupmates' selections.
4. Finally, generate a whole class list of the important facts. Discuss them and identify any important information that wasn't mentioned.

Syllabus Scavenger Hunt

1. Divide the class into small groups or pairs, either in class or in web conferencing (like Zoom), or create a discussion forum in the LMS.
2. Provide each group with a handout that lists questions they will need to answer by reviewing the syllabus. If using the discussion forum, provide a few lists of questions that students can choose to respond to. The questions should reflect what you believe to be the most important information for them to know at this point. Questions might include the following:
 - What is the attendance policy for the course?
 - How can you get in touch with your instructor?
 - When is the first assignment due?
 - You might also ask questions that require students to consider their goals, such as "Of the listed objectives for this course, which one interests your group the most and why?"
3. Review the correct answers with the whole class face-to-face, in an online synchronous session, or by creating a video that you share with the class. Ask students to share any questions they have about the syllabus that may not have been answered during the activity.
4. Optional: You can have the groups race to finish the scavenger hunt and award a prize to the team who answers the most questions correctly.