



Welcome new UA Faculty! UA is a distinguished university ranked nationally and internationally for high quality research, scholarship, and creative endeavors, and recognized for innovative and engaging teaching and learning.

UA faculty have initiated several creative approaches to improve university teaching and learning. At New Faculty Orientation, we will present information about the initiatives highlighted below.

[Office of Instruction and Assessment \(OIA\)](#)

Thirty-three professionals in this office are focused on providing faculty, all instructors, and teaching assistants with support in the areas of pedagogy, learning course management tools, assessment of student learning, instructional technology, online teaching, peer observations of teaching, and much more. A number of [OIA workshops](#) will be offered associated with the start of school.

[UA Learning Initiative](#)

The UA Learning Initiative is designed to enhance and support student learning through integrated programs for both faculty and students. This initiative includes discussions and activities focused on understanding and using effective teaching strategies that improve student learning and enhance retention of learned content and concepts. Effective strategies include active involvement of students within the classroom setting, low-stakes testing/quizzing throughout the semester, and asking students to make use of concepts covered earlier in the semester. Additional [instructional strategies](#) are outlined at our website and discussed in the book “Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons for the Science of Learning” by James Lang (2016).

In addition, the UA Learning Initiative includes Faculty Learning Communities on Improved Teaching. The faculty learning communities (FLC) are small groups of faculty who meet about seven times a semester to work on and discuss specific issues, in this case improved teaching for increased learning. To join a FLC this fall, please register [here](#). The UA Learning Initiative website also includes short lessons, [Learning to Learn](#), that faculty can use in their classes to help students improve the way they study and thus improve learning.

[Collaborative Learning Spaces \(CLS\)](#)

Through the inspiration and request from a faculty member, a large collaborative learning space was piloted by eight faculty in fall 2014. This fall there will be [thirty](#) collaborative classrooms around campus ranging in size from 24 to 260 seats. These learning spaces are designed for teaching that makes use of active learning and student engagement in the classroom. Professional development is available through special workshops and the OIA to assist with teaching in these spaces. Since 2014, 210 faculty from 60 departments have taught in a CLS, and most of these faculty have participated in a workshop or FLC to learn the best strategies for teaching in these spaces. More information on [teaching in a CLS](#) is available at our website.

New Faculty Orientation is **Tuesday** and **Wednesday, August 14** and **15** in the Collaborative Learning Space, inside the Science-Engineering Library. Click [here](#) for a map of the location. [RSVP](#) online or email Asya Roberts (asya@email.arizona.edu) for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gail'.

Gail D. Burd
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs