

Get Innovative

Students learn best when they are engaged in the learning activity. For some, this is attending a lecture, taking notes, and going back over those notes to study. For others, a lecture where they sit, listen, and take notes does not meet their learning needs. Lectures remain a part of current medical education. So, how can you make listening to and learning from lecture time more meaningful for your students?

If you want to try something other than a standard PowerPoint presentation for your lecture, there are many options:

➤ Break up lecture content with mini learning games or activities. The students have attention spans about 15-20 minutes for their lectures but are sometimes sitting in lectures for four hours. Chunk the content of your presentation into 15 minute segments and then have students engage in an activity that uses the knowledge from that portion of the lectures. Learn more about active learning strategies here:

- [Active Learning, Medical Education Wiki](#)

➤ Practice clinical decision making (CDM) questions with the group. These questions help the students to apply the factual information they are learning in the lecture to a clinically relevant scenario. These scenarios help the students understand WHY they are learning the material. When information is relevant to them, they will be more engaged in the learning.

➤ Turning the class into more active learning and putting the lecture portion outside of the classroom is known as flipping the classroom.

- [Flipped Classroom, Medical Education Wiki](#)
- [Flipped teaching, USask Teaching & Learning](#)

When you do use a PowerPoint presentation, allow your presentation to complement the material you deliver. The slides should not be the script you follow. Instead, use the slides to highlight key points. Use photos, illustrations, or videos to bring meaning to the content you are sharing. Use vivid examples, clinical descriptions of the lecture content, and real case scenarios to show the students the real-world application of the content.





Help is available! There are many resources within the College and University and some online.

- **Attend a faculty development session or request an individual consultation about innovative teaching options – Visit the Faculty Development website**
 - <https://medicine.usask.ca/facultydev/>
- **Teaching and Learning at USask**
 - <https://teaching.usask.ca/index.php>
- **FOAM**
- **Learn more about effective Graphing Tools**
 - <https://wiki.usask.ca/display/db/Graphing+Tools>
- **Learn more about how to use Visual Scripts**
 - <https://wiki.usask.ca/display/db/Begin+by+Using+Illness+Scripts>

If you are doing something “out of the ordinary” please **notify the A/V support team ahead of time so they can plan for any extra support.**

- <https://itrequisitions.usask.ca/av.php>