

IDCM

Instructor: F.J. Sabongi, M.Arch., ASID, CID, Associate AIA

Department Phone: 389-6385

Office Hours: Refer to posting

Faculty Teaching Certificate Program

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Capstone Project

During the meetings for the Faculty Teaching Certificate Program, my group and I discussed and analyzed many ways to improve the quality of our teaching and the usefulness of the materials that we presented to our students.

For my Capstone Project I chose to review the courses that I was assigned to teach. I then rewrote them to meet the expectations of the students and to satisfy the highest standards of education. My goals were to improve the quality of my teaching, to clarify the syllabus for each course, and to select the most useful materials and handouts for my students.

As part of the process I tried to incorporate these ideas which were developed during the group discussions:

- Communicate ideas clearly
- Show confidence
- Explain how the fundamentals in each course will apply in their lives
- Demonstrate an ability to deliver
- Share ideas freely and empower others
- Illustrate the value of service to the community

The elements of “active learning” have been very useful to me, and I have tried to incorporate them into my class preparation and lectures. The reasons to use “active learning” strategies are to:

- Promote critical thinking skills
- Involve students in the learning process
- Improve classroom results
- Personalize large classes
- Develop social support among students
- Help to understand students’ learning styles and how they differ
- Develop a “learning community” within courses
- Encourage students to seek help as soon as they think they may need it
- Develop a positive attitude among students
- Increase students’ confidence and self-esteem
- Encourage communication among students and with me

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