

Peer Review of Laboratory Instruction

Example from: Chism, N. (2007). *Peer Review of Teaching: A Sourcebook*, p. 131.

These items were developed with science labs in mind, but might also apply to computer labs or hands-on experiences in various disciplines. The items are based on having access to instructional materials as well as to direct observation. As with other forms of review, they assume that some way of understanding the thinking behind the instructors' approach, such as a conversation or reading of self-reflections, has also been a part of the review. For formative peer review, the questions might be used to collect data for a feedback session or coaching document. For summative purposes, a rating form can be composed of relevant items, or a narrative summary prepared speaking to the relevant items, comparing the instructor to peers.

Design of Learning Experiences

- Are learning experiences relevant to the course curriculum?
- Do they reflect current practice in the field?
- Are they at an appropriate level of challenge for students?
- Are the goals clear?
- Is the assessment strategy appropriate to the goals?

Instructions of Procedures Materials

- Are instructions and procedures clear?
- Are they of appropriate length for the time allotted?
- Do they contain information on goals and assessment?
- Are they proofread and in readable format?
- Are the materials needed for the laboratory available?

Instructional Oversight

- Does the laboratory instructor show understanding of the goals and procedures?
- Does he or she demonstrate the relevant content knowledge needed for the laboratory session(s)?
- Does the instructor take a proactive role in engaging with the students in the lab?
- Is the instructor available for questions and assistance?
- In helping students, does the instructor use clear questioning and coaching strategies?
- Can the instructor use the equipment and demonstrate the techniques needed for the laboratory?
- Are the safety procedures followed?
- Does the instructor coordinate work with any laboratory assistants, if present?

Student Engagement

- Are the students actively engaged in following the procedures?
- Do the students show understanding of lab goals and procedures?
- As they have questions, do students ask the instructor for help?
- If students are working in groups, do they work well as teams?
- Do students reach results that appear to satisfy them?

Assessment

- Is the assessment procedure at an appropriate level of challenge?
- Are the assessment procedures clear to the students?
- Does the student work show evidence of achieving goals?
- Do instructor comments on graded work provide ample and helpful feedback?

Comments on overall performance of instructor: