**Active Learning Video Transcript**

Hello, my name is Rebecca Pope-Ruark, and I am a Faculty Teaching and Learning Specialist in the center for Teaching and Learning. In this video and its accompanying handouts, we will

* Define active learning
* Recognize the benefits of using active learning strategies in asynchronous and synchronous learning environments
* Identify active learning strategies you can use in your courses to enhance student learning.

What is active learning? Imagine first your students sitting in a lecture hall or watching a video taking notes as you speak. The students are receiving information from you but not necessarily engaging with you, the material, or their peers, even if you ask if there are any questions.

Now imagine the students in your course, using pauses in the lecture or video to answer a clicker question about applying that information, take a mini-quiz, respond to a writing prompt to summarize the most important point so far or articulate something that is not clear to them.

Then imagine the students talking to each other, comparing notes and developing questions to ask from the group, doing a problem set or debugging a data set together, peer reviewing their homework assignments.

Including active learning strategies in your classes means that you intentionally and meaningfully ask the students to complete varied activities that help them to engage, apply, and interact with what they are learning in the class. Active learning approaches are not an add-on to a lecture but an integrated part of the learning experience that is connected to the learning goals you have for your students and helps them to think critically and deeply about course material.

Why should you include active learning strategies in your courses, whether face-to-face or remote? Learning theorist Dee Fink says that active learning occurs when students get new information, apply or observe that information in a different context, and then reflect on that learning. Active learning helps them to generate and test multiple ideas, see others use the information and learn from each other.

Study after study shows that active learning increases student learning and motivation to learn, reduces unproductive failure, increases inclusion/self-esteem, enhances professional skill development, and improves students’ interaction and collaboration skills. When students actively participate in their own learning, they can achieve these benefits.

The handout accompanying this video offers a variety of active learning strategies. You'll find simple strategies such as using clicker and discussion board questions.

Strategies that ask students to engage more actively might include having students collaboratively solve a problem set or create a concept map connecting their learning, or analyze a case study.

And you’ll also find more in-depth strategies like having students do primary observations or data collection, complete a group project, or work with an extensive data set.

Again, the majority of these active learning strategies work very well in asynchronous environments, not just synchronous.

When students have multiple opportunities to think about and use what they are learning in your course, they are more likely to meet the learning objectives you have for the class and be motivated to continue to learn and engage.