

Strategies and Resources to Address Learning Gaps



1

Plan Ahead: Chunk the Content

Plan ahead and divide content into small, shiftable [teaching chunks](#). By chunking content and learning activities, if you encounter gaps in class, you'll be able to pivot more easily to address those specific gaps.

How to pivot: Add a mini-lecture on prerequisite content that you find students are struggling with or add an activity to help students practice an area in which they are showing a weakness.



2

Foster a Safe Environment

Foster a safe environment where students won't fear being penalized for any knowledge gaps they may have.



3

Look for Already Prepared Content

For remedial content, look for prepared content to make available to students online: LinkedIn Learning or YouTube videos, Khan Academy or textbook publisher content. Pearson, McGraw-Hill, Cengage may provide online material like video-based content, problem sets, and practice quizzes for students to further engage with topics outside of class.

The Bentley Library provides [additional guidance](#) for adding online resources.



4

Be Transparent: Use Rubrics

Use rubrics when grading assignments. Make those rubrics available to students so they understand what you are looking for.

The Instructional Design Team at Bentley can help you develop rubrics for your class assignments. Additional rubric resources are listed on the next page.

How to Write a Rubric

At its most basic, a rubric is a scoring tool that lays out specific expectations for an assignment. Rubrics divide an assignment into its component parts and provide a detailed description of what constitutes acceptable or unacceptable levels of performance for each of those parts. Rubrics can be used for grading a large variety of assignments and tasks: research papers, book critiques, discussion participation, laboratory reports, portfolios, group work, oral presentations, and more. (p.3)

Description from Introduction to Rubrics (Stevens & Levi, 2013) - Desk copy available in office

A rubric is a scoring guide used to evaluate student work. It includes performance criteria used to evaluate an assignment and a rating scale. The rubric defines assignment expectations and how the work will be assessed, helping students better meet expectations and making the grading process more transparent and consistent.

When Writing a Rubric

1. Consider the assignment task and what student performance and feedback should include
2. Determine the rubric layout (**either** use a rating scale that includes criteria **or** form a grid with the rating scale across the top and each criteria listed in rows)
3. Identify and list key criteria (aim for 5-7)
4. Determine a rating scale for the criteria and write descriptions for each rating scale
5. Create the rubric and get feedback from peers and students

Additional Resources on Rubrics

[Designing Grading Rubrics](#)

[Value Rubrics](#)

[Grading Sample Rubrics](#)

[Rubric Toolbox](#)

[iRubric](#)

[Rubric Terminology](#)

Campus Resources

Technology tools you can use to help create informal assessments include:

Learning Labs

The Learning Labs at Bentley offer a wide range of one-on-one services to help student in need. Make sure to highlight the appropriate learning lab in your syllabus. Labs include The Writing Center, Mathematics Learning Center, the LEAF lab (for accounting, economics and finance courses), the CLIC lab for languages and cultures, the English to Speakers of Other Languages Center, and the CIS Sandbox:

<https://www.bentley.edu/academics/learning-labs>.

Tutoring

Academic Services can provide students with tutoring services based on a tutor referral from you, the faculty. This link provides students with information about Academic Services including tutoring services:

<https://www.bentley.edu/offices/academic-services/academic-support-services>

If you would like to refer a student for tutoring, please complete the tutor referral request form or contact Leslie Doolittle at ldoolittle@bentley.edu.

The Bentley Care Team and other Reports

We know that there are many challenges related to students returning to campus. Here are some other campus resources available to you not specifically related to classroom learning loss:

Please submit a report to the Bentley Care Team if you have non-emergency concerns about a student's academic progress or behavior. The link to submit a report can be found here: <https://www.bentley.edu/offices/student-affairs/bentley-cares>

If you would like to submit a Bias Incident Report, click here: <https://www.bentley.edu/offices/student-affairs/birt>

If you would like to submit a Gender-based harassment and Discrimination Report Form, click here: <https://www.bentley.edu/offices/student-affairs/title-ix-resources>

Library Resources

Online library resources for students can be found here:

<https://libguides.bentley.edu/online>