

How has On-Campus Student Learning Changed at ARC Since the Pandemic? (Insights from Spring 23 SLO Assessment)

During the Spring 2023 implementation of ARC's Student Learning Outcomes assessment documentation process, known as the Authentic Assessment Review Record (AARR), a new optional open-ended question was added by the SLO Assessment Committee (SLOAC) to gain insights into how student learning may have changed for on-campus instruction since the pandemic.

Specifically, ARC faculty were asked the following optional open-ended question: "If you have returned to on-campus teaching (face to face or hybrid), how has student learning changed after the pandemic? (Optional)" *Responses from faculty who reported SLO achievement for Face-to-Face or Hybrid Only sections were included in the analysis (n = 116)*

The responses were uploaded to [Perplexity.AI](#) to assist in textual analysis. This analysis produced a list of benefits of returning to in-person instruction for student learning (positive responses) and challenges of returning to in-person instruction for student learning (negative responses) (*references to specific programs were removed*). These benefits and challenges (see below) were found to be representative following a manual review of all 116 responses.

Benefits of Returning to In-Person Instruction for Student Learning

- **Increased student engagement and participation:** Students are more engaged in the content and appreciate the personal interaction and hands-on activities.
- **Better understanding of available resources:** Students have a better understanding of the resources available to them, which can contribute to their learning.
- **Appreciation for in-class learning:** Students have a greater appreciation for in-class learning, especially in disciplines that require hands-on activities and real-time observations.
- **Improved learning environment for specific subjects:** Some subjects benefit from a face-to-face, hands-on learning environment, leading to better student performance, proficiency, and enthusiasm.

Challenges of Returning to In-Person Instruction for Student Learning

- **Shorter attention spans:** Students' attention spans may be shorter in a face-to-face learning environment, potentially affecting their ability to focus on tasks.
- **Lack of resilience in the face of difficulty:** Students may have a lower level of resilience when faced with challenges, leading to a belief that they can't do certain tasks.

- **Expectation of online learning methods:** Students who have become accustomed to online learning may expect the same type of learning experience in a face-to-face setting, which can be challenging for instructors.
- **Increased stress and difficulty balancing responsibilities:** Students may struggle with stress and balancing the demands of a face-to-face course with their work and family lives.
- **Issues with access and tools:** Not all students have uniform access to technology and tools, which can make learning more challenging for some.
- **Missed preparation materials and bad habits from online learning:** Some students may have missed important preparation materials or developed bad habits while being instructed online, which can affect their performance in a face-to-face setting.
- **Difficulty in getting students to attend class:** Instructors may face challenges in getting students to attend in-person classes, with some students opting to complete classwork only while physically present in class.