

Best Practices for Field-based Education Facilitating Effective Learning¹

What are your specific educational objectives?

- What do you want students to be able to do, demonstrate, discuss?
- How will you articulate those to students?

What pre-existing knowledge will students possess related to the subject?

- How will you know what they know?
- How can you build upon that knowledge?
- How might that knowledge impede learning?

Are your students expert or novice?

- Experts incorporate new knowledge into existing framework
- Novices need to develop that framework
- Mixing the two can be challenging

What information do you need to convey in advance?

- What mechanism will be most effective for the information type?

What activities will you use in the field sites?

- Are the activities well suited to the knowledge/skill objectives?
- Does the site effectively support the activities?

How will encourage student-to-student interaction?

- Individual, small group, larger group elements?
- Team activities, group experimentation on techniques?

How will you encourage reflection, analysis, and application?

- Mindfulness exercise?
- Group discussion?
- Process map?

How will you instill a sense of context?

- Where does this lesson fit in the course?
- Where does this knowledge fit in the subject area?
- Where does this skill set fit in their potential career?
- How can this information/skill help them meet their personal objectives?

How will you provide feedback that helps students progress in the learning process?

- Real-time check-ins?
- Questions that challenge understanding?

How will you motivate students to invest in learning?

- Context/value?
- Social interaction?
- Rewarding feedback?

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