

CNS Expert Teaching Assessment

What is CETAP?

CETAP is a faculty fellowship run by the Office of STEM Education Excellence (STEMx). Our mission is to promote teaching excellence through high-quality external feedback that centers continual improvement of teaching.

A trained fellow from outside your department will meet with you to work out an observation plan that aligns with your goals, visit your class, and deliver a peer teaching observation report (sometimes referred to as an “external evaluation”) to you within about four weeks.

What you get

1

An outside read on your teaching. A colleague from another department watches a class with fresh eyes and tells you what they actually saw, in useful detail.

2

Tailored, concrete ideas you can try. Fellows offer several suggestions rather than a verdict. You take what fits your course and your goals.

3

A record of how your teaching develops. The earlier you start, the more there is to show. Observations across several years capture how your practice changed and what came of it.

Good to know

Fellows select instructors outside their home department, which brings fresh perspective across the college and builds community.

You can raise a concern. Frustrations with engagement, incivility, AI use, or attendance are useful starting points, not things to hide.

The report comes to you. A copy is archived by STEMx. It is not sent to your chair or department without your consent.

Many kinds of evidence are welcome. Your syllabus, course site, assignments, course evaluations, earlier observations, recordings, and lab or TA sessions are just as valuable as instruction.

Engage with the advice, even if you set it aside. Working out why a suggestion does not fit your course is often as useful as adopting one that does.

Unusual assignments are welcome. Large coordinated courses, labs, flipped courses, project-based courses, and TA training and coordination roles are all observable.

Questions? Reply to the fellow who invited you, or contact Amanda Hager, CETAP Coordinator, Office of STEM Education Excellence, hager@utexas.edu, or visit stemx.cns.utexas.edu.