

Title III Grant Operational Definitions

These definitions were developed from review of the feedback from the faculty survey conducted in February 2006 in collaboration with the Learning College Task Force.

***Active and/or Collaborative Learning**

Active learning engages students in projects and/or activities that involve doing something to construct new meaning. One example is to define a problem/need and then find a solution. These activities involve the instructor working along with the students as a guide, facilitator, and co-contributor. Students are responsible and accountable for their own learning and can work independently or in groups. As student participation in activities and projects increases and dialog increases, faculty time giving lectures greatly decreases. Students are discovering rather than being given the information. The instructor and students become colleagues in learning.

Collaborative learning involves students working with other students and faculty in one course or in more than one course across the disciplines, e.g., learning community. Collaborative learning involves both students and instructors as co-creators of new meanings or new knowledge. The success of these collaborations is dependent upon the contributions of every participant. Collaborative learning is often a key component of active learning, yet can also be used in quick short-term activities to review concepts or teach new ones. Faculty and staff also participate in collaborative learning through their participation in learning communities. Collaborative learning promotes interaction, interdependence and teamwork.

***Technology-Assisted Learning**

Technology-assisted learning incorporates appropriate technology (hardware and/or software) into a course for the primary purposes of facilitating learning and engaging students. The intent here is not just the act of using technology, but how and why it is used.

A goal is for faculty to use technology-assisted learning in a way that is “new” for them. For some this may mean using technology for the first time or creating a hybrid or online course. For others who use technology regularly, this may mean using a different creative approach. It is expected that, if technology is a subject of study within a course, then "technology-assisted learning" would incorporate additional technologies or would approach the technology in a different way than would be automatically expected as part of the course material.