

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis®

TILT Your Assignments – Transparency in Learning & Teaching

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Struggles like this are not uncommon...

Number of
undergraduates
who earn a
bachelor's degree
within 6 years.

60%

It's even worse for underrepresented students...

Underrepresented,
first generation, low-
income students, as
compared to their
White and Asian
peers.

Half as likely
to complete
college in 4
years.

It's even worse for underrepresented students...

Number of low-
income
undergraduates
who earn a
bachelor's degree
within 6 years.

11%

Even though underrepresented students are
the new incoming majority.

Why is this happening...

Equity of Access Doesn't Mean Equity of Experience

- **Gatekeeper Mentality No Longer Works:** “It’s my job to teach you [_____], but it’s not my job to teach you how to learn [_____]. If you can’t do that on your own, then you’re out.”
- **Incoming High Achievers Get Frustrated:** Well-prepared novices are still novice thinkers and don’t think like experts. They often don’t know how to do what we expect.

Unwritten Rules of College Success

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40e1FPaJowg>

Solution – TILT Your Assignments

Let's make the tacit curriculum transparent through TILT –
Transparency in Learning and Teaching

Solution – Two Beneficial Teaching Practices

- **Problem-Centered:** Students engaged in authentic, complex, real-world problems to which they apply the discipline.
- **Transparent:** Not just the *what*, but also the *why* and *how* of learning experiences.

Their Hypothesis: Combining Two Methods Would Improve...

- Students' learning experiences
- Quality of student work
- Student persistence and retention

TILT Template

Transparent Assignment Design Template

 2014 MA Winkelmors

Faculty/Instructors agreed (in national study, 7 MSIs) to discuss with students in advance:

Purpose

- Skills practiced
 - Knowledge gained
- } long-term relevance to students' lives
connection to learning outcomes

Problem-centered

Task

- What students will do
- How to do it (steps to follow, avoid)

Criteria for success

- Checklist or rubric in advance so students can self-evaluate
- What excellence looks like (annotated examples where students/faculty apply those criteria)

Explaining TILT Template

<https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cqjQ14O816>

Results of TILT

- Increased motivation
- Higher quality of student work
- Fewer challenges to grades
- Self-reported awareness of improvement of skills valued by employers, like working in groups and written and oral communication
- Improved sense of **academic confidence**
- Improved **sense of belonging**

Results of TILT

“...a higher sense of belonging and academic confidence correlated to improved GPA and retention rates, as previous research studies have indicated.”

TILT – A Little Goes a Long Way

If you aren't already doing this, give it a try with a few of your assignments.

It's a small intervention with a large impact.

Next Steps

Go to TILT Higher Ed to learn more...

<https://tilthighered.com/>