

Small Group Instructional Feedback (SGIF) Information for Instructors

An SGIF session is a way to gather information early in the semester about your teaching. It is designed to channel student perceptions of your teaching into opportunities for instructional improvement. Anonymous and voluntary students' comments about the course, your teaching, and their learning are gathered by a Biggio Center consultant. The feedback is summarized and presented to you during a one-on-one consultation which includes suggestions to improve teaching.

The Process:

You schedule a date for the consultant to conduct the SGIF session (biggio1@auburn.edu). The consultant arrives at the classroom with approximately 30 minutes of the class session remaining. You leave the room and the consultant conducts the SGIF. Small groups of students engage in discussion for about 10 minutes:

1. List what it is about the teaching of this course that contributes to student success. (This item reveals what you should keep doing.)
2. List suggestions for teaching practices that would further facilitate student learning in the course. (This item lets you know what you should start doing.)
3. List what is hindering student learning in this course. (This item tells what the students want you to stop doing.)

The small group discussions are not opportunities for students to gripe or complain, but rather an opportunity to make tangible suggestions to improve the educational experience.

Depending on time and size of the whole group, the small groups report to the whole and the consultant summarizes the students' responses to the discussion items. Efforts are made to accurately represent the students' views. Students are asked to confirm or make adjustments to what will be reported to you.

As soon as possible after the SGIF session, the consultant conducts a one-on-one consultation with you. A written summary of the feedback is provided and reviewed. Suggestions are offered for improved teaching.

At the next class session following the consultation, you debrief your students. You thank them for their participation. You tell them which teaching practices you will continue or begin; and you provide explanations for the suggested changes that you will be unable to make.

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