

THE CASTL SURVEY

Developed by the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Program

2004

About the CASTL Survey

The CASTL survey was originally administered in 2004 as a component of the CASTL (Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) Program. The CASTL program worked with a wide variety of institutions (campuses, collaborative centers and organizations, scholarly societies, etc.) to broaden the reach and depth of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The CASTL survey was designed to paint a broad-brush picture of the professional life of scholars of teaching and learning. The results of the survey helped document the changing culture of teaching in higher education, while contributing to a better understanding of the contexts for and consequences of engaging in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The results of the survey are reported in the book, *The Advancement of Learning: Building the Teaching Commons* (2005) by Mary Taylor Huber and Pat Hutchings.

About Carnegie Tools

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More information at:

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The Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Survey

Influence: There are a variety of reasons someone might become involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning. We are interested in knowing more about the questions and interests that prompted your involvement.

How important was each of the following to your initial involvement with the scholarship of teaching and learning?

1. I had questions about my students' learning that I wanted to explore.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

2. I wanted to expand the range of scholarly work in which I am involved.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

3. I wanted to connect my interests in teaching and learning to a recognized body of research.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

4. I wanted to participate in the movement to bring greater recognition and reward to the scholarly work of teaching.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

5. I wanted to find new colleagues with whom to pursue my interests in teaching and learning.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

6. I was urged to become involved by colleagues who knew about the scholarship of teaching and learning.
 - not important
 - somewhat important
 - very important

7. Other:
 - somewhat important
 - very important

Part II Participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning

The phrase “the scholarship of teaching and learning” may be used to denote a range of different kinds of activities and work. We are interested in knowing what kinds of activities you have engaged in since becoming involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Have you engaged in the following activities?

8. I have framed and investigated questions about teaching and learning within my own classroom.

NO YES

9. I have worked with colleagues at my institution in framing and investigating questions about teaching and learning.

NO YES

10. I have worked with colleagues beyond my institution in framing and investigating questions of shared concern about teaching and learning.

NO YES

11. I have participated in campus-based professional development centered on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

NO YES

12. I have attended a session devoted to the scholarship of teaching and learning at a discipline-based conference.

NO YES

13. I have presented my scholarship on teaching and learning at a discipline-based conference.

NO YES

14. My scholarship on teaching and learning has been published (or accepted for publication) in a journal or a book.

NO YES

15. I have made my scholarship of teaching and learning available on a website.

NO YES

16. I have received campus funding for a project on the scholarship of teaching and learning (other than funding for my CASTL participation).

NO YES

17. I have received external funding for a project on the scholarship of teaching and learning (other than funding for my CASTL participation).

NO YES

18. I have taken on a leadership role in changing (or trying to change) departmental policies on teaching to more fully reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

NO YES

19. I have taken on a leadership role in changing (or trying to change) my institution's policies on teaching to more fully reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

NO YES

20. I am currently working on a project in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

NO YES

Part III Consequences

These questions are aimed at understanding the consequences of your involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

21. I have changed the design of my courses since becoming involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

22. I have changed the kinds of assessments I use in my courses as a result of my participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

23. Becoming involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning has contributed to my excitement about teaching.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

24. My expectations for my own teaching have changed since participating in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

25. My expectations for my students' learning have changed since participating in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

26. The quality of my students' learning has changed since my involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

27. I have documented improvements in my students' learning since becoming involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

28. More of my students achieve high standards of work since I became involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

29. I have found new colleagues and communities outside of CASTL for work on teaching and learning since participating in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

30. My work in the scholarship of teaching and learning has had a positive influence on teaching in my department beyond my own practice.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

31. My involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning is visible to my departmental colleagues.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

32. My work in the scholarship of teaching and learning has influenced colleagues at my institution outside of my department.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

33. I was recruited for a new position based on my scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

34. My participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning has opened up a major new career focus for me.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

35. My participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning has opened up new opportunities for me at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

36. My involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning has heightened my interest in reading research on teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

What role did the scholarship of teaching and learning play in advancing your career?

37. In my most recent hiring, my scholarship of teaching and learning was ...

- not submitted
- submitted, but I'm unsure what role it played
- submitted, but weakened my case
- submitted, and strengthened my case
- not applicable

38. In my tenure case, my scholarship of teaching and learning was ...

- not submitted
- submitted, but unsure what role it played
- submitted, but weakened my case
- submitted, and strengthened my case
- not applicable

39. In my promotion to full professor, my scholarship of teaching and learning was ...

- not submitted
- submitted, but unsure what role it played
- submitted, but weakened my case
- submitted, and strengthened my case
- not applicable

40. In my most recent merit raise, my scholarship of teaching and learning was ...

- not submitted
- submitted, but unsure what role it played
- submitted, but weakened my case
- submitted, and strengthened my case
- not applicable

41. In my most recent post-tenure review, my scholarship of teaching and learning was ...

- not submitted
- submitted, but unsure what role it played
- submitted, but weakened my case
- submitted, and strengthened my case
- not applicable

Part IV Departmental Context

We are interested in understanding the organizational contexts for your work. The following questions focus on the environment within your department.

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

42. Within the past 5 years, my department has broadened the criteria for assessing teaching performance to more fully reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

43. My department's policies encourage faculty to reflect upon their teaching practices.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

44. Within my department, other faculty members are actively involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

45. My department offers adequate release time to faculty who engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning projects.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

46. My department provides adequate financial support for faculty to engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

47. Department norms encourage participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

48. Some of my departmental colleagues find my work in the scholarship of teaching and learning problematic.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

49. Faculty members in other departments at my institution are actively involved in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

50. Other departments provide more support for the scholarship of teaching and learning involvement than my department does.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

51. When hiring new faculty, my department regards applicants' interest in the scholarship of teaching and learning favorably.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

52. My department chair has actively encouraged involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

Part V Campus Context

This set of context questions is focused on the environment at your institution beyond your own department.

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

53. Over the past 5 years, my institution has re-examined its approach to rewarding teaching.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

54. Over the past 5 years, my institution has broadened the criteria for assessing teaching performance to more fully reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

55. Over the past 5 years, my institution has established formal structures to support the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

56. Top-level academic leaders at my institution have taken significant steps to support the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

57. Faculty members in formal leadership roles (senate president, department chair, etc.) have actively supported the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

58. Support for the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution is widespread.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

59. The criteria for promotion decisions at my institution reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

60. The scholarship of teaching and learning is integrated into other institution priorities and initiatives.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

61. The criteria for tenure decisions at my institution reflect the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

62. Faculty members at my institution have received tenure based at least in part on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

63. The criteria for the teaching awards presented at my institution are consistent with principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

64. There are adequate campus-level funding opportunities for the scholarship of teaching and learning projects at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

65. My institution offers adequate release time for the scholarship of teaching and learning projects.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

Part VI Trends in Your Discipline/Field of Study

In each forum, what changes have occurred over the past 5 years? (please choose all that apply):

66. Journals devoted to teaching and learning within my field of study.

- no change in past 5 years
- increase in number over past 5 years
- higher standards of quality over 5 years
- not sure

67. Articles on the scholarship of teaching and learning in the top journals of my field.

- no change in past 5 years
- increase in number over past 5 years
- higher standards of quality over 5 years
- not sure

68. Sessions about the scholarship of teaching and learning at the primary annual conference for my field.

- no change in past 5 years
- increase in number over past 5 years
- higher standards of quality over 5 years
- not sure

Part VII Support for the scholarship of teaching and learning

Of the possible sources of support for the scholarship in teaching and learning, we are interested in knowing which ones have been important to your work.

To what extent has each of the following played an important role in advancing your involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning? (Please choose one)

69. Participation in a national program or initiative to advance teaching and learning (does not have to be limited to the scholarship of teaching and learning).

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

70. Supportive attitudes of departmental colleagues.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

71. Release time from regular duties.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

72. Campus funding for projects focused on teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

73. Funding from external sources for projects focused on teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

74. Tenure and promotion policies that encourage the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

75. Professional development activities at my campus that focus on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

76. The efforts of professional associations to encourage the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

77. The efforts of professional associations to encourage the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- not present
- present but unimportant to my work
- present and somewhat important to my work
- present and very important to my work

Part VIII Constraints

Each of the following has been identified as an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

78. The tension between demands for research productivity and the scholarship of teaching and learning is an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

79. Confusion among faculty about what constitutes the scholarship of teaching and learning is an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

80. Lack of leadership among top-level administrators is an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

81. Many faculty members' perception of the scholarship of teaching and learning as an addition to their workload is an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

82. The fear that making teaching public could undermine faculty members' academic freedom is an obstacle to greater faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning at my institution.

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- agree
- strongly agree

83. Other obstacles at my institution:

Part IX Predictions

When do you predict that each of the following will happen?

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning . . .

85. . . . will become a fully legitimate, "counted" kind of scholarly work on my campus.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- never

86. . . . will become a respected specialty in my discipline or professional field.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- never

87. . . . will become an expectation of all faculty at various points in their careers, institutionalized through campus policies.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- never

88. . . . will contribute to widespread changes in how students learn in postsecondary classrooms.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- never

89. . . . will disappear and leave no trace.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- never

90. . . . will become a form of accountability used against faculty.

- 5-10 yr.
- 10-20 yr.
- 20+ yrs.
- Never

Part X Additional Comments

We would appreciate any comments that would contribute to our understanding of your work. Is there anything else about your experience with the scholarship of teaching and learning that has not been explored in this questionnaire? Do your responses to any of the question items require explanation? 91. How do you explain the scholarship of teaching and learning to colleagues who may not be familiar with it?

92. Please add any comments or feedback that you believe is relevant to this questionnaire. Do not feel constrained by the space provided.

Part XI Background Information

93. What college or university currently employs you? _____

94. For how many years have you been employed by this institution? _____

95. What department or organizational unit do you consider to be your “home”?

96. What is your primary disciplinary affiliation? _____

97. Which of the following best describes your academic rank, title, or position at this institution during the 2003 Fall term?

- Not applicable (no formal ranks are designated at this institution)
- Professor
- Associate Professor
- Assistant Professor
- Instructor
- Lecturer

Other title (e.g., Administrative, Adjunct, Emeritus, other)

98. In what year did you acquire this particular title/rank? _____

99. What is your current tenure status? _____

100. Year of birth _____

101. Would you be willing to contribute additional comments or answer follow-up questions to your responses on this survey? If so, please write your name and contact information.

Thank you very much!