About ISLES

What’s This?

- Learn about a common framework for instructional practices that highlights 10 evidence based strategies for increasing student achievement.
- Explore the framework in your introduction courses, methods courses, senior courses, and internship. Understand it, explain it, see it, plan it, and do it!
- Experience the connections with Pitt County and Greene County schools as their teachers incorporate a similar framework.
- Complete an online series of Instructional Strategies Lessons for Educator Series (ISLES) modules focusing on the framework at every step. The islands within the modules are designed using the Star Legacy Framework.

Hot Links

- Dig more deeply into the Star Legacy Framework and why online modules were chosen. Click here:

Take a Look

Think About

- Consider how you will meet the needs of the diverse children in your classroom. The ISLES modules will prepare you to do just that, one semester at a time.

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Instructional Strategy Lessons for Educators Series

(ISLES)

Overview

Research has shown that student achievement is directly tied to teacher effectiveness. As a result, there is now a nationwide reform movement to improve teacher effectiveness. As part of the reform movement the Office of Innovation and Improvement in the United States Department of Education awarded “Teacher Quality Partnership Grants” to teacher education programs around the country. In the fall of 2009, the College of Education at East Carolina University won one of the 28 Grants. With the grant funds, ECU’s College of Education is reforming several areas of its program: Recruitment, Curriculum, and Clinical Practice. ECU partners, Pitt County Schools and Greene County Schools, are reforming their induction programs as well.

The ISLES Module that you are about to complete is part of the curriculum component of the reform. It is designed to teach you 10 particular instructional strategies. They are not the only strategies that are effective or that a prospective teacher should learn to incorporate in instruction. The 10 instructional strategies discussed in the module constitute a starting place; over time you are expected to learn additional effective instructional strategies. You will receive instruction on those additional strategies from your professors. Also note that instructional strategies are not the only means of raising student achievement. An effective teacher must have good classroom management, an effective curriculum, and appropriate professional dispositions. For now, however, the curriculum reform is focusing primarily on effective instructional strategies.

The goal of the module is to teach you what the strategies are. It is not designed to teach you how to incorporate the strategies into lesson plans or how to implement them when teaching students in a classroom. You will complete one module for each of those purposes later in your program.

The following instructions will help you complete the module successfully. Please read all of them carefully. Thank you for your cooperation and good luck in your quest to become an effective teacher.

Module Instructions

Please read all of the instruction carefully before accessing the online module.

1. The ISLES 1: Declarative Knowledge module is a required course assignment.
2. It is important that you try your best when completing it and treat it as seriously as any other assignment in the course.
3. It is also imperative that you maintain the highest academic integrity while completing it. Please do not discuss the assessment questions or answers with anyone else until after everyone has completed it.

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4. The module is comprised of five Islands/categories (Organizers, Concept Learning, Question & Review, Grouping, and Assessment). Two strategies from each category are taught.

5. It should take you between 30 minutes and 1 hour to complete each of the five islands.

6. Carefully plan when and where you complete the module. Select a quiet comfortable location with enough time to complete a single island.

7. You should also take notes while completing the islands. You may wish to download and print some of the materials for later use.

8. The ISLES module will be located in your course Blackboard site.

9. Once you access the site, you will see The Instructional Strategies Test: Pre-test. Please complete it before going on. It will not count as a part of your grade.

10. Then, you will see five folders, each one representing a different island of the module.

11. Begin with the Organizers island. Work through that module. If time permits, continue on to the Concept Learning island from there. If you don’t have time to do more than one island at a time, simply return to the website when you are able to do so. Follow this procedure for each of the remaining islands: Question & Review, Grouping, and Assessment. Be sure to complete the islands in order; this is important since the content of an island builds upon content in prior islands.

12. Each island has the same 5-part structure: Mission, First Impressions, Exploration, Assessment, and Review. In the Mission section, you learn about a familiar problem or situation that teachers encounter in their classrooms. From there you move to First Impressions where your prior knowledge about the mission is activated. In the Exploration part of the lesson you learn the lesson objective and the information about the instructional strategies in that category. After exploring the topic, you will assess your understanding in the Assessment part of the lesson using a multiple-choice quiz. Finally, you will review what you learned in the Review section.

13. When taking the quiz in the Assessment section of the lesson, you must answer each item to move forward and you cannot change your answer once it has been submitted. Blackboard will record your grade for each island and calculate your total grade for the module.

14. After you complete all five islands, you will be given the Instructional Strategies Post-test. Again, the score on this will not be included in your course grade.

15. You are now ready to begin the ISLES 1 Module.

If you need technical assistance, submit a request to http://coehelp.ecu.edu

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