Classroom Observation Form

for Tenure Track Faculty

This form is to be completed by administrators, department chairs, or tenured faculty members performing formal observations for inclusion in a tenure track faculty member’s portfolio. When possible, observers are encouraged to meet with the tenure track faculty member prior to the observation to gain context for the class session that will be observed and to identify any areas where the faculty member would like specific focused feedback.

This form must be completed and returned to the faculty member within **one week** of the formal observation. It is suggested but not required that the observer meet with the faculty member to review feedback in person.

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| Instructor’s Name |  | Class and Section Observed |  |
| Observer’s Name |  | Date of Observation | **Click here to enter a date.** |
| Relation of Observer to Instructor |  | Number of Students Enrolled |  |
| College | **Choose an item.** | Number of Students Attending | On time:Tardy: |

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| Directions for Assigning Ratings |
| For each category below, a description is included to guide the observation. **It is not necessary for all bullets to be addressed or observed**; rather, the bulleted list offers direction and suggestions to guide ratings and comments. In commentary, describe observed strengths as well as areas for growth. ***Commentary is required for each section.*** After offering commentary, select the appropriate descriptive rating based on the following definitions:* **Strong**—evidence indicates that the instructor consistently meets and sometimes exceeds expectations. Specific examples illustrating strength should be included in commentary to justify the rating.
* **Satisfactory**—evidence indicates that the instructor tends to meet expectations and the observer does not identify any specific concerns in a given area.
* **Needs Improvement**—evidence indicates minor to moderate concerns in the given area and focused support is needed. A detailed explanation of concerns and the type of support needed should be outlined in commentary.
* **Significant Concern**—evidence indicates significant concerns in the given area, suggesting that a formal action plan may be needed. A detailed explanation of concerns and necessary improvements should be outlined in commentary.
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| Syllabus |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Official course description and course prerequisites are stated
* Course objectives and Student Learning Outcomes are stated, are appropriate for the course, and match departmental master syllabus if existent
* Student Learning Outcomes are measureable
* Grading system is stated clearly and standards used to assess students’ work are adequately explained
* Variety of assignments listed (e.g., in-class tests, lab reports, essays, etc.) indicate that Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed using multiple methods
* Course policies (e.g., ADW, late work, participation) are stated clearly, and all policies are consistent with college policies
* Adequate information regarding course content (e.g., required texts and materials, course outline, etc.) is included
* Adequate information regarding student support (e.g., office hours, and appropriate academic support services) is included
* Syllabus is easy to navigate, well written, and professional
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Description of Class Session Observed |
| Describe the class session observed including the session’s intended purpose, the types of instructional techniques used (e.g., lecture, discussion, small group activities, in-class writing, experiential learning, etc.), and the sequence of activities, including the approximate amount of time spent on each activity. |

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| Learning Environment |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Class is managed in a way that is conducive to learning and demonstrates respect for students
* Distractions (cell phones, side talking, etc.) are minimized and do not interfere with learning
* Policies stated in the syllabus are appropriately and consistently enforced
* Instructor’s expectations of students are clear and consistent throughout the class session
* Instructor works to ensure that students are on task (e.g., by circulating during group work, by acknowledging off-task behavior and redirecting students, etc.)
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Content and Lesson Organization |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Class session’s purpose is clear and time is organized effectively to meet the session’s purpose
* Class session’s purpose is aligned with one or more of the stated Student Learning Outcomes
* Lesson is organized logically and content is sequenced appropriately
* Pacing and difficulty of material are appropriate for the level of the class
* Instructor’s command of subject matter is evident (TO BE COMPLETED BY OBSERVERS WITH DISCIPLINE TRAINING ONLY)
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Presentation and Delivery |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Instructor conducts him/herself in a professional manner
* Instructor begins and ends class on time
* Instructor manages time effectively to maximize students’ time engaged in learning activities
* Instructor opens and closes lesson effectively, situating learning within the broader context of the course
* Instructor’s verbal communication is effective (e.g., instructor enunciates clearly and can be heard and understood throughout the room, etc.)
* Instructor’s written communication is effective (e.g., use of board, handouts, PowerPoint, visual aids, etc.)
* Instructor is clear when delivering content, giving directions, and answering questions
* Instructor helped students to grasp challenging material by presenting examples to clarify points, relating new ideas to familiar concepts and students’ prior knowledge, restating important ideas at appropriate times, and/or varying explanations of complex material
* Students are actively engaged (e.g., taking notes when appropriate, participating in activities and discussions; demonstrating body language that suggests engagement)
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Critical Thinking |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Instructor employs methods that develop students’ ability to communicate and problem solve using the discipline’s thinking, practice, and procedures
* Class session provides the appropriate level of challenge and is designed to help students grow intellectually and think in new ways
* Method of instruction helps to build critical thinking
* Instructor creates an environment that fosters students’ intellectual curiosity
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Student Assessment and Support |
| *The following list of elements is offered to guide your comments and rating:** Instructor exhibits ability to determine whether or not students understand material and uses formative assessment to determine appropriate pacing of instruction and next steps (e.g., follow up assignments, use of student resources, etc.)
* Instructor promotes students’ reflection on, and ownership of, their own learning progress by helping them self-assess and determine appropriate next steps
* Instructor displays respect for and interest in students (e.g., uses of students’ names, maintains eye contact with students, greeting students as they enter the class, etc.)
* Instructor identifies and assists students who are struggling
* Instructor conveys confidence in each students’ ability to learn
* Instructor engages all students, including both quiet or low-achieving students and those who are vocal or successful
* Instructor fosters student peer interaction that supports learning and promotes cooperation, collaboration and teamwork
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| Comments: |
| [ ] Strong [ ] Satisfactory [ ] Needs Improvement [ ] Significant Concern |

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| Additional Comments |
| Use this space for any of the following purposes:1. to comment specifically on any focus area the instructor has identified for the observation;
2. to report on progress since the last observation (when applicable);
3. to provide any questions you had during the observation regarding instructional or classroom management choices;
4. to offer any additional commentary not covered above;
5. to offer summative commentary to highlight notable strengths or areas for growth and/or to offer focus for the faculty member’s future professional development;
6. to include any needed action plans. (An action plan must be developed in coordination with the candidate and must include an agreed upon list of measurable next steps with dates for completion and follow up.)
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| Comments: |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: **Click here to enter a date.**