Top Tips for Faculty

IRIS open educational resources (OERs) are freely available for use in all course-delivery types: face-to-face, online, flipped, or hybrid. This handout offers tips for how to use them in your courses.

STAR Legacy Modules

- Explain the five-component cycle. Show the “Navigating an IRIS STAR Legacy Module” video or work through a module together.
- Highlight the estimated completion time and use the Module Outline to preview content or take notes.
- Demonstrate closed caption and transcript options for videos and audios.
- Show the Challenge video then activate prior knowledge by discussing the Initial Thoughts questions in whole or small groups.
- Have students complete the Revisiting Initial Thoughts questions on the Wrap Up page to compare their current thoughts to what they believed they knew when they began the module.
- Enter the Assessment questions into your course-management system. (Reminder: Answers cannot be entered on the IRIS Website.)
- Encourage students to provide feedback using the Module Feedback Form link located throughout the module.

Case Studies

- Assign STAR Sheets as homework in preparation for completing cases during class.
- Assign partners to find three take-away ideas from the STAR Sheets.
- Complete a Level A case with the whole group; assign Level B or C cases to small groups or as independent work based on students’ levels of experience or expertise.
- Use case studies or STAR Sheets to problem-solve real-life challenges in field experiences.

IRIS Resource Locator, Activities, Interviews, & More

- Show or assign the “Navigating the IRIS Resource Locator” video.
- Use IRIS Activities or Fundamental Skill Sheets to introduce a topic, as an ice breaker, or for independent work.
- Use IRIS Interviews to introduce students to nationally recognized experts.
- Use Information Briefs and the Web Resource Directory to direct students to information from other trusted sources.
- Use Fundamental Skill Sheets or Video Vignettes to show implementation of evidence-based practices and promote awareness of individuals with disabilities and their families.
» Use the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Summaries tool to introduce the What Works Clearinghouse, a trusted source of research. Ask students to use the site to research an EBP for classroom use and to present their findings.

» Consult the IRIS Glossary to learn education and disability related terms.

» Use our IRIS High-Leverage Practices tool to identify the four HLP topic areas and find resources that address each of them.

» Explore the Film and Children’s Book tools to learn more about media portrayals of disability.

» Return often to New & Coming Soon to find out about revised and upcoming IRIS resources.

Resources for Faculty

» Use the Coursework Planning Forms to revise individual courses or the overall curricula.

» Use Wrap-Around Content Maps to extend and deepen the information included in modules and case studies.

» View the Sample Syllabi Collection to get ideas for course readings, assignments, and grading, as well as to see how other faculty have embedded IRIS resources. Create your own syllabus using the IRIS Syllabi Template.

» View Curriculum Matrices and learn how to integrate IRIS resources across programs.

» Use the Standards tool to align resources with the licensure and content standards for CAEP, CEC, DEC Recommended Practices, InTASC, and NCATE.

» Email iris@vanderbilt.edu to gain access to assessment answer keys.

Tech Tips

For more tips, visit https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resources/faculty/tips/