We’re going virtual!

Dear Colleagues,

I think many of us are in the same boat with respect to uncertainty for Fall teaching. Hybrid, hyflex, online (or as our university likes to call it “leveraging technology to decouple learning from any particular space”), we have a lot to consider as we continue to plan for the Fall. One constant this Fall will be the MARC ACSM Conference.

MARC my words, you’ll want to incorporate this content into your courses!

This year’s conference will offer the same high-caliber content as our in-person meeting but be delivered virtually. Please consider incorporating the MARC ACSM annual conference into your Fall syllabus as a way to enhance student engagement in their major and complement your course learning objectives. This virtual platform affords an exciting opportunity to introduce students to ACSM without the hustle-and-bustle of organizing travel, hotels, meals etc. With a variety of speakers covering a number of topics, there’s something for every course.

And for those that are not as invested in teaching (you know who you are), here’s an opportunity to teach less / record less content...cancel a class or two and have students attend the conference instead for the same contact hours. And did I mention, there is no cost for students.

Below, we offer suggestions that can be used as springboards for teaching ideas. Each idea can be adapted and modified numerous ways to meet instructor teaching goals and course/student learning objectives. We are happy to brainstorm additional ways of modifying assignments as well and helping develop assignment rubrics to assist with grading.

“Unprecedented times call for unprecedented pedagogy.”

- me

Virtual Grad Fair
Scientific Sessions
Clinical Sessions
Meet the Experts
Write a summary...

Write a 2-page scientific summary of the presentation viewed. Locate 2-3 additional peer-reviewed publications written by the speaker and infuse those studies into the summary. What were some of the research questions being addressed? What were some of the hypotheses? Why do you think this topic is significant? Relate to content discussed in class.

Professional Development:

Staying current in your chosen professional field will be essential to success. Just as physicians must maintain their medical education after obtaining their terminal degree (CMEs), so too must exercise scientists. Attending clinical and scientific conferences is considered a standard means for exercise scientists to bolster professional development, network, and be exposed to emerging ideas and theories in their chosen fields.

You are charged with the task of watching 3 research presentations/sessions from the annual MARC ACSM Conference. You may select any 2 based on personal and professional interests. Viewing the keynote presentation will be required. If scheduling conflicts prevent this, please discuss with the instructor. After attending the virtual presentations, you are to complete 1 of the following assignments. Additional details will be provided in class. This assignment is due November 19th.

Extra Credit Tweet

EXTRA CREDIT. Include a short tweet on the talk you watch during the talk. Be sure to include the official MARCACSM#.

Make a YouTube video that summarizes the general topic presented by the guest speaker. After summarizing the broader content area, highlight the speaker's talk.

Get creative (present it as a news story, host a debate with fellow classmates)

Keep it kind, the speaker may see it!
Write a press release...

Write a press release to the school newspaper that covers the “5 W’s” of journalism. Be sure to include a summary of the talk. Explain technical aspects to your readership / a lay audience. Emphasize the potential significance of the topic (why should the reader care) with clear take-away messages. A sample press release will be provided in class.

Viewing posters...

View 3 student poster presentations. Summarize the presentation. What are study strengths? Limitations? If you were the researcher, what would you do differently and why? What might your next study be and why?

Meet the Experts

Attend the “Meet the Experts” Session. As a group, we will prepare questions to ask the speakers beforehand (to be sent to the session moderator). Questions will be related to career development, the expert’s path toward their profession, advice for students etc. Write a paper summarizing the Q&A exchange and what you took away from this session. What information did you find most valuable and why? Most interesting and why?

Discuss one new career option that you learned about from the meeting overall. Describe job responsibilities, education needed, recommended certifications. Visit a job search website (e.g. glassdoor) and include 2 sample jobs that relate to this general career area.

Attend the virtual college fair. Visit 3 different colleges/universities. Describe graduate programs offered by each institution. What are the requirements for entry into the programs? What are unique strengths for each program? What are potential careers outcomes?

Attend the virtual vendors fair. Identify one company of interest. Describe products they make for the exercise sciences. What do the devices measure? How? Find one research study that used this device. Summarize the study. How did researchers use the device and how did they interpret findings?

Email the president (of MARC...not the USA) a thank you message. Describe one thing you learned. What did you enjoy most about the conference?

Design a symposium for next year’s MARC ACSM meeting. Discuss the learning objectives of the session. Identify 3 experts in the field that would serve as your speakers.