MARC ACSM Virtual Meeting –

Dear Colleagues,

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented pedagogy. 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 plan for the Fall. One constant this Fall will be the MARC ACSM Conference. 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.

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. ------------------------------------

Ideas for incorporating into your Fall courses

Sample for syllabus statement:

**Research Presentation Attendance and Brief Reports:** Staying current in your chosen professional field will be essential to success. Just as physicians and nurses must maintain their medical education after obtaining their terminal degrees, so too must exercise scientists (exercise physiologists, strength and conditioning specialists). 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 concepts in your chosen profession. You are expected to watch 3 research presentations/sessions from the annual MARC ACSM Scientific Sessions. You may select any two based on your personal-professional interests. Viewing the keynote presentation will be required. After attending the virtual presentations, you are to complete a two-page assignment for the presentations that you attended. Details regarding the assignment will be announced in class.  **This assignment is due November 19th, 2020.**

Potential assignment ideas:

1. 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.
	1. Locate 2-3 studies in a similar area NOT written by the author.  Either support or refute the presenter’s claims using SCIENCE.
2. 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.
3. Make a 5-min YouTube video that summarizes the general topic presented by the guest speaker.  After summarizing the broader content area, highlight the speakers talk.  Keep it kind.  The speaker may see it! 😊 (extra credit. Include a short tweet on the talk you watch during the talk… be sure in include the official MARCACSM#).
4. 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. Discuss a new career path that you learned about? Do some research on your own. What courses might be needed at the undergraduate level? Is a graduate degree recommended/required? Describe job responsibilities.
	1. 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.
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. 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?