Dear Colleagues,

I think many of us are in the same boat with respect to uncertainty for Spring teaching. Hybrid, hyflex, online (or as our university likes to call it “Cruflex”), we have a lot to consider as we plan for the upcoming semester. One constant this Spring will be the TACSM Annual Meeting and all of the traditional student focused activities that we offer.

Trust me, you’ll want to incorporate TACSM 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 TACSM annual conference into your Spring 2021 syllabus as a way to enhance student engagement in their major and complement 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.
Professional Development: Staying current in your chosen professional field will be essential to success. Just as various healthcare and allied healthcare providers must maintain their medical education after obtaining their terminal degree (CMEs), so too must exercise scientists.

Attendance at both regional and national scientific meetings 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 2021 TACSM Annual Meeting. You may select any 2 based on personal and professional interests. Viewing 1 of the 2 keynote presentations 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 March 5th.

Sample Syllabus Statement

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.

Extra Credit Tweet

EXTRA CREDIT. Include a short tweet on the talk you watched during the asynchronous period. Live tweet during the synchronous events!

Be sure in include the official twitter page of @TexasACSM and use your #’s! #TACSM #TACSM2021

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

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

Keep it kind, the speaker may see it!
Create a IG Story...

Use Instagram to create a story from beginning to end on your experience with all aspects of the 2021 TACSM Annual Meeting. Include speaker highlights, student recognitions and awards presented, highlight your favorite poster presentations, and track the action on the live Student Bowl XII and President’s Cup competitions! Be sure to tag the TACSM Instagram account @TXACSM and #TACSM #TACSM2021

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?

Speaker Roundtable Sessions

Attend the three scheduled synchronous roundtable sessions and participation in Q&A with all speakers in the 2021 Annual Meeting. This can be done in a individual or group setting and submit the questions to the chat feature in the session. Questions can be related to research or the topic of their presentation, career development, 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 live Student Bowl XII Competition. Play along, quiz yourself as you go and see how prepared you are for this sports medicine competition! Live tweet the scores and who is in the top 5 and Final Jeopardy and who will go on to compete at National ACSM. See if you have interest in competing in this next year and contact your professors on your desire to get involved.

Email the TACSM president a thank you message.

Describe one thing you learned. What did you enjoy most about the conference?

Attend the live Raven Lecture and TACSM Honor Award Lecture to hear the two keynote talks for the 2021 TACSM Annual Meeting.

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