

Hub Department Liaisons Program: Faculty Conversations about Engaging Online Instruction

The Hub for Teaching and Learning Resources is seeking up to six faculty members to serve as Hub Department Liaisons for the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 semesters. This program is focused on fostering conversations about engaged, interactive online learning, with a core emphasis on our [UM-Dearborn Rubric for Online Instruction](#). The rubric worksheet serves as a vehicle for facilitating university-wide conversations about excellent online instruction at Dearborn.

Program Goal

We want faculty to use the UM-Dearborn Rubric for Online Instruction in their own classes, give us feedback on how to make it effective as a reflection tool, and then disseminate the rubric to their colleagues, encouraging them to use it too.

Background

Our rubric is designed to help with developing a new online course, self-assessment of how engaging an online class is, and mentoring conversations between faculty, based on best practices. Recent student surveys highlighted a strong desire for more instructor-student and student-student interactions, especially in online asynchronous courses. This program uses the rubric as a direct tool to support faculty who are looking for ways to engage more effectively and rigorously with their students.

Program Phases & Liaison Expectations

Phase 1 (Fall 2025): Using the Rubric & Giving Feedback

- Attend a **kick-off workshop** with other Liaisons in October to discuss the [rubric](#), share initial insights, and develop strategies for its application, focusing particularly on fostering interactive strategies.
- Apply the [rubric](#) to at least one of their courses, focusing particularly on fostering interactive strategies.
- Meet at least once with a Hub Instructional Designer to assure that proposed changes to the rubric are in line with a broad perspective
- Provide detailed feedback to the Hub by the end of Fall 2025 to help us refine the rubric.

Phase 2 (Winter 2026): Spreading the Rubric

- Attend a **mid-program meeting** with other Liaisons at the beginning of the Winter 2026 semester to discuss experiences and plan for the dissemination phase.

- Recruit and consult with at least five faculty members in their department to gather feedback on the rubric and to work with their colleagues to implement at least one exemplary aspect from the rubric in their course.
- Participate in a **virtual panel discussion**, organized by the Hub, at the end of the program to share insights and successes regarding rubric implementation.

Stipend

Liaisons will receive \$750 for their participation across both semesters.

Eligibility

All tenure-track and non-tenure-track instructional faculty who have concrete experience or plans with online asynchronous courses are eligible. We aim for diverse representation across colleges, with no more than one Liaison per department. We're looking for faculty who have experience teaching online asynchronous courses and are eager to explore and share effective strategies for enhancing interaction, particularly through the use of the rubric.

Process

[Applications](#) should be submitted by Monday, September 29th.

For more information, contact Carla Vecchiola at cvecchio@umich.edu.