

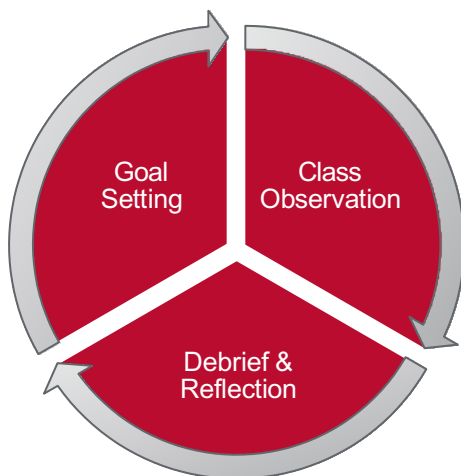
What is a CTL Peer Observations of Teaching?

It is a *formative* process supporting professional development of the instructor. This formative process is not meant to critique teaching but rather, provides constructive and detailed feedback on the goal(s) the instructor is attempting to achieve in the classroom. Peer observations of teaching document teaching and learning practices in the classroom and are meant to help make instructors aware of different teaching approaches, to encourage an open-mind and questioning attitude, and to provide a model through which they can reassess their own teaching practices. Teaching Support @ CTL offers peer observations of teaching to anyone with teaching responsibilities at UNM (including graduate teaching assistants).

Categories of practices that could be the focus of an observation include:

- Establishing and meeting goals for student learning
- Presentation, organization, clarity, pace
- Inclusive teaching techniques
- Active learning and interactivity
- Level of student engagement
- Varied methods for engagement
- Use of technology
- Instructional materials
- Teacher-Student interactions
- Formative and summative assessment practices

General Process for Peer Observations of Teaching:



Pre-Observation and Goal-Setting conversation: a CTL staff member meets with the instructor to discuss the process, the pedagogical goals of the instructor, and to gather information on the course to be observed.

Observation: a CTL staff member observes the instructor in the classroom. An observation form may be used to help document the practices observed. These types of forms may include checklists, open-ended prompts for general commentary, or both.

Post-Observation Debrief and Reflection: a CTL staff member meets with the instructor for a reflective discussion on the observation and provides a report with suggestions for development and next steps based on the instructor's stated goals from the pre-observation.

All teaching observations conducted by Teaching Support @ CTL are confidential. If requested by the instructor, an official letter detailing participation and completion of the teaching observation process can be provided.