



Center for Teaching and Learning, Korea University

Michael J. Jacobson | Senior Associate Director

The mission of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Korea University is to significantly enhance the quality of teaching at the university and, consequently, of student learning in order to better prepare university students for the challenges of the global society in the 21st century. The CTL strives to support excellence in teaching that challenges what students know and advances what they are capable of understanding. In addition, the CTL attempts to foster excellence in undergraduate learning in which knowledge-based understandings are integrated with values and the powers of critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation to form the basis for independent thinking and life long learning.

A particular focus of the CTL is a set

of special activities that support an important component of the Global KU initiative related to increasing the number of undergraduate courses taught in English at the university from 30% by the end of 2005 to 50% by 2007. There are several CTL programs for these courses—which are referred to as English-mediated (EM) courses to stress the interactive dimension of this content-based approach to help the students learn the subject areas as well as to enhance their language skills—that are discussed further below. Another feature of the CTL, unique compared to similar centers at other Korean universities, is the affiliation of international faculty and/or researchers with the center to help support the English-mediated EM courses.


The teaching enhancement activities at

the CTL focus on ways to foster effective teaching and to provide faculty with useful information and tips to enhance teaching skills. The CTL also provides support for ways technology can be used to enhance teaching and student learning. One of the programs that most directly supports the EM courses is the *Coaching Program for Faculty Teaching English Mediated Courses*. This program provides the opportunity for faculty to enhance their English language teaching skills through private coaching sessions with native English speaking faculty as well as to obtain tips for how to teach in ways that will help the students, many of whom are new to content-based language learning approaches. Another CTL activity is the *Faculty Workshops and Seminars* program in which invited speakers discuss techniques and methods to enhance teaching, such as tips for teaching the EM courses, problem-based and project-based learning, fostering student discussions, stimulating students' motivation, collaborative learning, and evaluation of student learning. Also available to faculty are *Teaching Consultations and Micro-Teaching* that involve individual or small group consulting sessions for faculty to improve teaching strategies and skills. These sessions provide faculty with constructive feedback on class video

tapes or teaching in front of colleagues or individual consultants in a non-threatening environment. The CTL also holds several roundtable and faculty luncheon sessions that provide faculty with the opportunity to collaboratively share their teaching experiences with other faculty members, with an emphasis on the EM courses, and to discuss other issues that impact university teaching and learning at Korea University.

The learning enhancement activities of the CTL focus on ways to help students with the challenges and demands of obtaining a university education at a global university. For example, the CTL offers a series of *Student Workshops and Seminars* that provide new and existing students with a variety of sessions covering important skills and issues for successful learning, such as tips to enhance learning in EM courses, presentation skills, study and note-taking skills, and writing academic papers. Korea University has also recently implemented a custom developed learning management systems known as EKV (E-learning Korea University). *EKV Training Sessions* are provided by the CTL for students (and faculty) to learn about the EKV features such as the individualized online classroom, submitting assignments via

EKU, and using the web-forum and online discussion tools to support class activities

Finally, the Korea University CTL has strong links to other similar centers at other universities in Korea. In this way, the CTL benefits from the experiences at other institutions as well as provides leadership related to the special activities and programs developed here. 

Michael J. Jacobson

Michael J. Jacobson, Ph.D., is the Senior Associate

Director and an Associate Professor at the Korea University Center for Teaching and Learning in Seoul, Korea. Previously, Dr. Jacobson held faculty and research positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Vanderbilt University, and The University of Georgia, and he has been involved with organizational and international consulting activities. His research has focused on the design of learning technologies to foster deep conceptual understanding, conceptual change, and knowledge transfer in challenging conceptual domains. Most recently, his work has explored cognitive and learning issues related to the design of learning technologies to help students understand new scientific perspectives emerging from the study of complex and dynamical systems.

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(우)150-742 서울 영등포구 여의도동 27-2 한국대학교육협의회 기획개발부
전화 : 783-3891 팩스 : 783-3645 전자 우편 : infor@kcue.or.kr