

Large Lecture Classes: Tackling Distraction

Tips for Instructors

- **Ensure that students can hear and see lecture materials no matter where they're sitting in the classroom**

Use classroom mics to help students hear.

Create lecture slides with large, clear text and contrasting colors.

If writing on a board, verify that students can see. Provide verbal descriptions of what you write to make sure you are understood.

- **Engage students with a variety of approaches**

Using Clickers, group discussion, live demonstrations, visual or audio material can help keep students engaged.

Incorporating stories or case studies can connect course material to real-life experiences and help bring your content to life for your students.

- **Show students that you care by creating a classroom community**

Learn as many students' names as possible.

Encourage TAs to regularly check in with students before and after class.

Offer multiple avenues for students to get help, such as in-person and online office hours, TA office hours, online discussion forums, and facilitating study group formation.

- **Communicate a clear and transparent approach to electronic devices**

Although electronic device use can be distracting to students, devices can also provide benefits for learning.

Decide what approach to devices will work best for your classroom and be open with students: Can students take notes on devices? Should these students sit in "device zones"? Could you leverage device use to encourage student learning?

- **Manage the classroom environment**

Address disruptive students during class, or utilize TAs to manage these disruptions.

Close room doors if possible to limit distraction from outside noises.

These tips were generated by CU Boulder students in a campus-wide survey. See <http://bit.ly/llwebsite> for additional information.



51%
of students reported
difficulty in hearing
their instructors



41%
reported
difficulty seeing
course materials



74%
of students are
distracted by other
students talking
during class



34%
are distracted by
other noises