

# Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

## Ethnographic Research

### Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

This ethnography project and presentation is a research initiative and partnership with a local state university. As part of the project, students work in groups of three or four to conduct ethnographic research methods such as interviewing, participant observation, focus groups, surveying, and taking field notes. During the course, students become native ethnographers, implementing a project in which they research their own community—they work in their groups to complete ethnographies of social patterns on campus. Students use the theories they learn in class to discuss the data they gather. As part of the course, an Institutional Review Board representative speaks to the class, explaining the standards of ethical research. Students present their research at the university's Undergraduate Research Week conference, where they compete with students from four-year colleges. Their finished group project is a podcast and companion research paper. Students use Audacity software to create the podcast. The podcasts are uploaded to an online scholarly repository.

### Notes From the Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

“This project is part of the Ethnography of the University Initiative from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: <http://www.eui.illinois.edu/>”