Current Trends in Teaching and Learning

Increasingly, we are seeing the following trends, directions and movements:

- "research" and "teaching" are perceived as mutually enhancing rather than antithetical;
- course time is devoted to discovery-based (aka inquiry-based, resource-based, project-based, and active) learning over traditional lecture modes of transmitting knowledge;
- teaching emphasis has moved away from memorizing facts towards finding, evaluating and using information;
- instructors are realizing what they teach isn't the same as what students learn and re-scoping the curriculum accordingly ("teach less, learn more");
- new teaching and learning styles incorporate collaborative work in diverse teams or groups;
- course content is interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, and team taught;
- course content is publicly accessible and shared beyond the members of an individual course;
- teaching and learning extend beyond the classroom and into the campus and community;
- the instructor is perceived as a partner in a learning community (with GSIs, with librarians, with other academic support partners, and with undergraduates themselves) rather than as a sole entrepreneur;
- the audience for student work is expanding from the individual instructor to communities of discourse that include peer feedback and exchange;
- assessment is multi-level and complex incorporating both formative and summative types and involving reciprocal evaluation of how well teachers teach and how well students learn;
- today's students have grown up with technology as the air they breathe, are used to being wired 24/7, are comfortable multi-tasking in multi-media, and bring very different expectations to the classroom as a result;
- today's employers prize transferable skills (e.g. problem solving, creativity, interdisciplinary teamwork) over encyclopedic knowledge.

Sources:
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*UC Berkeley Accreditation Educational Effectiveness Report (2003)
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*UC Berkeley Strategic Academic Plan (2002)
http://opa.vcbf.berkeley.edu/StratPlan/AcademicStrategicPlan.pdf
*The Boyer Commission Report "Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities" (1998) http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Pres/boyer.nsf/

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