# Definitions for SoTL Glossary

## Role Call:

Below, please enter your name, affiliation, orcid (if known) and any social media tags you wish to be associated by. These details can be updated later. Please separate items with a semicolon.

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## Definitions

Below you will see the list of terms we have so far generated. Please choose a term and fill in as much information as possible. Please do not change the words already in place (e.g. Terms, Long Definition, Short Definition, etc) as we need these to be the same throughout.

Further down you will also see a list of empty entries you can add terms we have yet to think of.

The two rules of adding information:

1. Please do not edit the words in bold at the start of the line or their colon - we need that for the magic to happen.
2. Please try to avoid using colons except in weblinks as we still have one fix on the code to do. If you find you want to use a colon, try a semi-colon, fullstop or comma instead.

## Prefilled Terms

**Term:** Accreditation

**Short Definition:** A quality assurance and enhancement mechanism for programmes/courses by a relevant institution/external professional body, to ensure standards.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:** Accreditation can mean different things/be applied differently in different academic disciplines. The [QAA website](<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/degree-awarding-powers-and-university-title>) gives more information about the general degree awarding powers that universities hold. Some schools/departments within a university will be accredited by an organisation (for example, the Adam Smith Business School at the University of Glasgow is accredited by AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA), whereas in other areas, some degrees are accredited by professional bodies/organisations. This means that they are aligned with the professional body’s own qualifications and ensures that the education programme meets industry standards. Examples include the City Planning and Real Estate Msc degrees at the University of Glasgow are accredited by the [Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)](<http://www.rtpi.org.uk> <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/become-a-planner/study-at-university/wales-scotland-and-northern-ireland/>) and the [Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors](<https://www.rics.org> <https://www.rics.org/surveyor-careers/how-to-become-a-surveyor/university-surveying-courses>) Other example include medicine and dentistry.

**Contributors:** Joanna Stewart, Alison McCandlish

**Tags:**

**Term:** Active Learning

**Short Definition:** Learning by doing and reflection; this could be individual or collaborative.

**Long Definition:** Active learning is defined as “Any instructional method that engages students in the learning process….[it] requires students to do meaningful activities and think about what they are doing” (Prince, 2004, p.233, citing Bonwell and Eison 1991).

**Deep Dive:** Active learning can take place in any format, including online or in-person. There is a large variety of methods and strategies that can be employed. e.g., team-based learning, think, pair, share and problem-based learning. Active learning supports various skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, communication and collaboration. Active learning facilitates deep learning vs superficial learning.

**Contributors:** Vicki Dale

**Tags:**

**Term:** AI-driven Adaptive Learning

**Short Definition: AI-driven** systems provide a more personalised learning experience which cater to diverse learning preferences/requirements.

**Long Definition:** AI-driven adaptive learning enhances student engagement and performance, scaffolding individual learner pathways in real-time based on performance and preference. It requires technology to diagnose a starting point for learners in terms of their existing knowledge and skills. Subsequently upskilling them and continually monitoring their performance. The systems provide immediate feedback to the students, which informs their subsequent learning tasks.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Vicki Dale

**Tags:**

**Term:** Assessment

**Short Definition:** Method for evaluating learning and skills of learners

**Long Definition:** Various methods for evaluating the learning that has taken place during a course, module or programme of study. Typically centered on demonstrating how the intended learning objectives of a course have been met, but also includes skills in communication that a student developed through a course

**Deep Dive:** While the goal is often to measure the attainment of learning objectives, something teachers forget to do is to align their assessment with those objectives or in other cases, the method of assessment can rely on a student needing to develop skills in communication that are assumed/not explicitly taught. The process of constructive alignment can help to align teaching methods and assessments with intended learning outcomes.

**Contributors:** Helena Paterson

**Tags:** hidden curriculum; pedagogy

**Term:** Asynchronous Learning

**Short Definition:** Learning within the same module that occurs at different times for different students.

**Long Definition:** Asynchronous learning refers to students accessing materials at their own pace/in their own time (for example, watching pre-recorded lectures or doing readings).

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Joanna Stewart

**Tags:**

**Term:** Co-Creation

**Short Definition:** Development through collaboration

**Long Definition:** In an education setting this term most likely refers to staff and students working together to develop novel teaching and assessment approaches

**Deep Dive:** The University of Glasgow Learning and Teaching Conference 2025 was on the theme of Co-Creation and Collaboration and the programme can be viewed here: [<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/add/events/pastconferencewebpages/annuallearningandteachingconference/>](<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/add/events/pastconferencewebpages/annuallearningandteachingconference/>). In addition, a series of presentations on the theme of Co-Creation from the conference can be found on the associated Youtube channel here: [<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUtE5AlmlvhVBabCbLiGVC-8CyTEHOjRg>](<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUtE5AlmlvhVBabCbLiGVC-8CyTEHOjRg>)

**Contributors:** Phil McAleer

**Tags:**

**Term:** COIL

**Short Definition:** An abbreviation for Collaborative Online International Learning; a style of teaching which involves two or more groups of students from different institutes being taught that same module at the same time using the resources available at all the institutes involved.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Consent

**Short Definition:** Voluntary agreement to take part in an event

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Control Groups

**Short Definition:** In experimental design a group that did not experience an intervention

**Long Definition:** A group that represented the baseline or default state

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Demographics

**Short Definition:** The characteristics of a population. (often described with descriptive statistics). With regard to students, key demographics include gender, age, socio-economic background, country of origin, ethnicity, employment status, and caring responsibilities.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Joanna Stewart

**Tags:**

**Term:** Digital Credentials

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Dissemination

**Short Definition:** Making SOTL findings public.

**Long Definition:** Dissemination involves sharing our practice as widely as possible

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Eilidh Soussi

**Tags:**

**Term:** Ecopedagogy

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** EDI

**Short Definition:** An abbreviation for the term Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Effect Sizes

**Short Definition:** A measure of the outcome of a study.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Epistemology

**Short Definition:** Epistemology is the study of the nature of knowledge, how it is defined, what can be known, and what are its limits.

**Long Definition:** Epistemology is the study of the nature of knowledge, how it is defined, what can be known, and what are its limits.

Guba, E. S. and Lincoln, Y. S. (1994) ‘Competing paradigms in qualitative research’, in Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (eds.) Handbook of qualitative research. 2 ed. Thousand Oaks, SAGE.

“Epistemology, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is the theory or science of the method and ground of knowledge. It is a core area of philosophical study that includes the sources and limits, rationality and justification of knowledge.”

Stone, L. 2008. Epistemology. In Given, L. (ed.) The SAGE Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods. Thousand Oaks.

“Branch of philosophy that investigates the possibility, origins, nature, and extent of human knowledge. Although the effort to develop an adequate theory of knowledge is at least as old as Plato’s Theaetetus, epistemology has dominated Western philosophy only since the era of Descartes and Locke, as an extended dispute between rationalism and empiricism over the respective importance of a priori and a posteriori origins. Contemporary postmodern thinkers (including many feminist philosophers) have proposed the contextualization of knowledge as part of an intersubjective process.

“Defined narrowly, epistemology is the study of knowledge and justified belief. As the study of knowledge, epistemology is concerned with the following questions. What are the necessary and sufficient conditions of knowledge? What are its sources? What is its structure, and what are its limits? As the study of justified belief, epistemology aims to answer questions such as How we are to understand the concept of justification? What makes justified beliefs justified? Is justification internal or external to one’s own mind? Understood more broadly, epistemology is about issues having to do with the creation and dissemination of knowledge in particular areas of inquiry.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Nic Kipar

**Tags:** Methods

**Term:** Ethics

**Short Definition:** Principles that determine and guide how we teach and carry out research and scholarship.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Feedback

**Short Definition:** Information about reactions to a person’s contribution to a task

**Long Definition:** Feedback in educational settings

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Formative Assessment

**Short Definition:** Activities designed to give both the teacher and the student an understanding of the student’s knowledge and skill without assigning a grade or counting towards a final grade.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Gamification

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Glasgow Specific Terms

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Hidden Curriculum

**Short Definition:** The unwritten knowledge of the workings of an institution generally learned through experience

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Phil McAleer

**Tags:**

**Term:** Knowledge Exchange

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Learning

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Learning Analytics

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** LTI

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** LTS

**Short Definition:** Learning, Teaching and Scholarship

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:** A career track at the University of Glasgow: [Guidelines for Learning, Teaching & Scholarship Track](<https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_499574_smxx.pdf>)

**Contributors:** Alison McCandlish

**Tags:**

**Term:** Mann-Whitney U test

**Short Definition:** A non-parametric inferential statistics test for comparing the difference between two groups.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Mentimeter

**Short Definition:** An interactive computer programme tool which allows an audience to interact with pre-defined (presenter-designed) questions using their own device.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:** <https://www.mentimeter.com/> is the main company website. <https://www.mentimeter.com/education> shows education use cases.

The company describes the tool as a way to “Turn presentations into conversations with interactive polls that engage meetings and classrooms”

**Contributors:** Alison McCandlish

**Tags:**

**Term:** Mixed Methods

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Moodle

**Short Definition:** Core Moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is an open-source learning management system designed for online education and training. It allows educators to create, deliver, and manage courses and assessment activities in a digital environment and also facilitates integrations with a variety of other complementary learning technologies, enhancing the learning experience for students and educators.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Multidisciplinary

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Ontology

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:** “One’s view of reality. Ontology includes one’s assumptions about the nature of reality and claims about what exists. In SoTL, it is important to acknowledge the philosophical underpinnings that inform the research decisions.” ([Webb & Tierney](https://lta.hw.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/SoTL_Key_terms_and_definitions.pdf))

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Katharine Terrell

**Tags:**

**Term:** Open Science

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Open Source

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Outputs

**Short Definition:** Forms of dissemination.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:** The outputs of a SOTL project might be blog posts, journal articles, posters and more.

**Contributors:** Katharine Terrell

**Tags:**

**Term:** p-value

**Short Definition:** The probability of your data (or more extreme), assuming the null hypothesis is true.

**Long Definition:** Under frequentist inferential statistics, the p-value represents the probability of your data (or more extreme), assuming that the null hypothesis is true. Informally, you can see it as a measure of surprise, where a small p-value means your data would be surprising under the null hypothesis. Conversely, a large p-value means your data would not be surprising under the null hypothesis. The idea behind this technique is helping you make decisions where you can either reject the null or retain the null. Given an alpha value (often .05 or 5%), rejecting the null means you conclude there is an effect, whereas retaining the null means you do not conclude there is an effect.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** James Bartlett; Phil McAleer; Helena Paterson

**Tags:** Statistics

**Term:** Passive Learning

**Short Definition:** In contrast to active learning, this term is associated with students being exposed to a predominantly an information transmission approach where they have no agency or investment in their learning.

**Long Definition:** Students cramming for a test may adopt a superficial approach to learning where the goal or motivation is to regurgitate with the purpose of passing an exam.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Vicki Dale, Steve Draper

**Tags:**

**Term:** Pedagogy

**Short Definition:** “The art and science of teaching, pedagogy is the methods of lesson, course, and program delivery.” ([Webb & Tierney](https://lta.hw.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/SoTL_Key_terms_and_definitions.pdf))

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Katharine Terrell

**Tags:**

**Term:** Peer Assessment

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Personalised Learning

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Problem-Based Learning

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Qualitative

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Quantitative

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Red Brick University

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Reflective Practice

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Regression

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Research-Led Teaching

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Russell Group

**Short Definition:** A group of 24 research-intensive UK universities.

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Sample Size

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Scholarship

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** SoTL

**Short Definition:** An abbreviation for the phrase Scholarship of Learning and Teaching

**Long Definition:** The scholarship of learning and teaching is

“The scholarship of teaching and learning is a rigorous, literature- informed, and peer-reviewed framework for investigating teaching and learning in higher education. It is methodologically flexible and open to many types of inquiries into pedagogical, curricular, disciplinary, and institutional contexts.” ([Webb & Tierney](https://lta.hw.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/SoTL_Key_terms_and_definitions.pdf))

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Katharine Terrell

**Tags:**

**Term:** Student Voice

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Summative Assessment

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Sustainable

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Synchronous

**Short Definition:** Happening at the same time; live.

**Long Definition:** Synchronous learning activities are those where the teacher and learner are interacting in real time. For example, lectures (online or face-to-face) are typically synchronous - the teacher facilitates learning activities “live” and students engage in the activities in that moment. Compare with “asynchronous”.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Katharine Terrell

**Tags:**

**Term:** Teaching

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Team Teaching

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Virtual Reality

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** VLE

**Short Definition:** Virtual Learning Environment

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Work-Integrated Learning

**Short Definition:** Work-integrated learning (WIL) is a term used to describe different teaching strategies that integrate the theory of learning with the practice of work. This can take many forms such as work placements, fieldwork, and external stakeholder/industry supported projects or assessments.

**Long Definition:** WIL aims to foster better employability since students take part in activities directly related to the workplace. It helps students to put their learning into context and allows them to apply taught theory. Authentic, real-world assessment is the foundation of WIL which provides students feedback and experience more applicable to their future career. It is often accredited or supported by external stakeholders and can range from a single course to an entire programme (Ball & Manwaring, 2010). WIL helps equip students with skills employer’s value.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Susan Lindsay

**Tags:** WIL

## Additional Terms

**Term:** Experiential Learning

**Short Definition:** Experiential learning is when students take part in hands-on activities which help embed skills and understanding. Students typically learn by actively engaging and reflecting upon real-world activities.

**Long Definition:** Experiential learning allows students to actively engage with a topic. While hands-on learning is considered part of this, it is important that students also reflect and think critically about their experience. Hands-on activities support deep learning and tend to be an engaging method of learning.

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:** Susan Lindsay

**Tags:**

**Term:** Parametric

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

**Contributors:**

**Tags:**

**Term:** Non-Parametric

**Short Definition:**

**Long Definition:**

**Deep Dive:**

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**Tags:**

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