



SEISMIC Phase Two Info Session

2/27/2026 - [Zoom recording](#)

The Sloan Equity and Inclusion in STEM Introductory Courses (SEISMIC) collaboration targets STEM education reform through an openly stated focus on equity and inclusion in large foundational courses. We believe we can achieve more together than we can alone.

SEISMIC Phase One (2019-2025) helped to define a new standard for STEM reform projects: a class cannot be successful unless it is equitable and inclusive. Activities included parallel data analysis of student outcomes in STEM courses, coordinated experiments to improve student experiences in the classroom, a continuous exchange of speakers, and annual meetings.

WELCOME TO SEISMIC PHASE TWO (2025-2028)

Phase Two Overall Goal

Promote greater adoption of equity-oriented assessment practices in large introductory STEM courses across a range of institutions and departments.

Additional Goals

- Facilitate continuous, small-scale improvement related to student assessment practices.
- Examine course-level outcomes data in parallel across institutions.
- Share alternative, evidence-based assessment approaches for student success.
- Share strategies and resources to support SEISMIC members in securing faculty buy-in for alternative assessments in introductory STEM courses.

Who Can Participate

Institutions may join SEISMIC by following our legally non-binding MOU process. For more information or to see our current list of partner institutions, [visit our website](#).

Key Features

Kick Off Event. We are hosting a Kick Off Event in May 2026 to launch our Phase Two work.

Alternative Assessments. We will support four or more **Disciplinary Teams** to bring assessment reforms directly to introductory classrooms. While individuals will be responsible for implementing these changes in their own courses, the Disciplinary Teams will serve as collaborative spaces to learn together and to learn from each other. Importantly, SEISMIC is not asserting what reforms should be done in a given course.

Measuring Impact. SEISMIC will provide resources to support institutional researchers in measuring the impact of course assessment revisions on student outcomes. Particular attention will be paid to measuring if courses are more equitable, more effective, and requiring fewer testing accommodations than in the past.

SEISMIC Seminar. Each month we will organize a virtual meeting to allow for interdisciplinary collaboration, progress updates, discussion of resources and assessment approaches, and role-specific conversations (e.g., institutional researchers reviewing analyses together).

Dissemination. Throughout the project, SEISMIC institutions will rotate hosting speakers on their campus to share alternative assessment approaches (**Speaker Series**). Phase Two will close with a conference in Summer 2028 to disseminate our findings.

*For more information, please check out our developing [GUIDEBOOK](#) and <https://www.seismicproject.org/>.
Questions? Contact Project Manager Nita Tarchinski at nitaked@umich.edu.*

Kick Off Event

May 19-22, 2026, Ann Arbor, MI

The purpose of this conference is to launch our Phase Two efforts, which include a disciplinary focus on STEM assessment reform. This conference will provide opportunities to learn about alternative approaches to course assessments, build community across disciplines and institutions, and explore how we measure equitable and effective outcomes in STEM courses.

What to Expect

This conference is an **active** meeting. Expect to engage in many discussions, reflections, and the sharing of draft ideas. Our hope is that you leave this conference with:

- A clear understanding of your role in SEISMIC Phase Two
- Renewed enthusiasm for enacting assessment reform in introductory STEM courses
- Concrete assessment strategies you can pilot or support pilots of in the coming year
- Peers you can draw on for support and community during this work

BEFORE

Attend monthly SEISMIC seminars (last Friday of the month, 2 pm ET) to build momentum.

DURING

- 5/19: Optional pre-conference session on GenAI
- 5/20-5/21: Conference sessions
- 5/22: Participants depart

AFTER

Participate in disciplinary teams and/or teams focused on specific assessment approaches. Engage with additional SEISMIC activities.

Who Should Attend and How to Register

Each partner institution may send the following 10 participants, with travel and hosting costs covered by SEISMIC:

- 8 instructors / staff members involved in introductory STEM courses (including graduate student instructors)
- 1 institutional researcher comfortable working with student performance and demographic data
- 1 SEISMIC Campus Liaison (or delegate) to represent the institution in SEISMIC-level discussions

If you fall into one of the above categories and would like to attend, please [contact your Campus Liaison as soon as possible](#) to let them know. SEISMIC will be reaching out to Campus Liaisons for their participant lists in mid March. After this, SEISMIC will reach out to you to complete registration and assist with your travel arrangements.

Additional funded spots are available for:

- Undergraduate students at our partner institutions who are involved in STEM education reform and who are eager to attend and provide input on our assessment plans
- Staff in teaching centers or related units at our partner institutions who are eager to attend and help to shape how our Disciplinary Teams will function

If this describes you, please reach out to Project Manager Nita Tarchinski (nitaked@umich.edu) **prior to April 1, 2026** to express your interest.

For more information, please check out our developing [GUIDEBOOK](#) and <https://www.seismicproject.org/>. Questions? Contact Project Manager Nita Tarchinski at nitaked@umich.edu.