Strategies that support persistence and student success

Students withdraw from classes for a variety of reasons, including academic and personal reasons. This is a short list of strategies that can be used to encourage student persistence and hopefully student success. Thanks to the faculty who have shared their ideas over the years. Others may have developed and implemented different strategies. I encourage you to share your successes with your colleagues.

Clarify expectations

- Present a comprehensive syllabus at the first class meeting.
- Review the student learning outcomes for the course and how you will assess learning.
- Clearly state what you expect of students and what students can expect from you.
- Demonstrate consistency in the application of standards and policies.
- Provide regular and specific feedback to students throughout the semester.
- Ask students for feedback about the class early in the semester.
- Maintain high academic standards and help student achieve them.

Establish contact with students

- Develop strategies that will engage students in the learning process.
- Ask students how they think the class is going.
- Acknowledge students by name both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Contact students who have been absent for consecutive class meetings.
- Assign students an appointment during office hours, before or after class.
- Respond in a timely manner to student calls or emails.

Review strategies of successful students

- Emphasize the importance of attendance and its correlation to student success.
- Demonstrate note-taking techniques.
- Suggest the use of study groups and help students establish them.
- Emphasize the need to plan ahead for medical appointments, transportation and back-up child care.
- Refer students to appropriate campus resources and services.
- Share the strategies you used to successfully navigate the educational system.

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