

EXAMPLES OF FIRST-WEEK CLASS ACTIVITIES TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

INTRODUCTION

To help our students be successful, faculty can provide a strong start by conducting some of the activities listed below. This is not an exhaustive list of activities; many of you already have your own successful activities.

ACTIVITIES

SYLLABUS – activities to encourage students to read the syllabus

- Treasure hunt, e.g. find assignment worth the most points. Find when the first assignment is due.
- Syllabus quiz
- After syllabus is discussed have students do Think, Pair, Share. Students share one thing that excites and interests them about the topic/course and one thing they have a question/concern about in the syllabus.

GRADING SYSTEM – explain the grading system and how students can keep track of their grade in the class

- Review breakdown of grading categories and/or assignments
 - Use graphics such as a pie chart
- Demonstrate how to calculate the student's current grade
- Show them how to access the gradebook in Blackboard or My Way

EMAIL/MY WAY – activities to encourage students to read/use their student emails and My Way

- Have students respond to questions posed through email. (Require them to read email, not just respond to questions posed in class.)
 - Introduce yourself
 - Answer syllabus quiz questions

COME TO CLASS EVERYDAY – activities to encourage students to come to class

- Hooks
 - Quiz hints at the end of class
 - Pose an interesting question that will be answered at the next class
- Email, call, or text students who miss class

LEARNING TEAMS – activities to encourage students to meet/interact with other students.

- Have students interview then introduce another student
- Have students divide into groups geographically and introduce themselves, e.g. divide by Dodge and 72nd street or I-680
- Have them divide into groups for an assignment

STUDY TIME/HOMEWORK – activities to reinforce that students should plan to spend at least two hours per week per credit hour outside of class doing class activities or studying

- Have students share tips on how to study
- Provide students with a blank calendar they can fill in with class meetings, work hours, and other obligations to help them locate and plan study time

ALWAYS ASK (AA) - Activities that create an atmosphere that encourages students to ask questions

- Give a tour that shows students where they will meet with you for appointments and office hours
 - Tour could also include tutoring center, testing centers, library, student services, etc.
- Start answers with “Thank you for asking.”
- Direct students, where appropriate, to MCC service, e.g., Financial Aid, Program Advisors, Veterans Service, etc.

UNIQUE NEEDS OR SITUATIONS – mechanisms for students to let you know if they have unique needs or situations e.g. pregnancy, test anxiety, they may be late because of their job, etc.

- Use index cards to gather information from students
- Use Blackboard assignment to gather information from students

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