TIPS FOR TEACHING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT GVSU

GVSU FACULTY SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS SUCCEED

- **Clearly establish academic expectations**
  - Making these explicit using the syllabus and in-class discussions about expectations
  - Reiterating these expectations throughout the semester
- **Willingness to discuss study skills and effective methods of studying**
  - Talking about how college expectations may differ from past experiences
  - Having conversations about study skills
- **Being Approachable**
  - Establishing a classroom climate that encourages students to ask questions
  - Demonstrating genuine concern for students' success
- **Using instructional techniques that promote deep learning**
  - Active Learning
  - Collaborative work in class

For more information and access to a "living" collection of materials that can be dropped into your blackboard course, visit our Strong Start Initiative webpage.

EXAMPLES: TECHNIQUES YOU CAN USE TO HELP FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS SUCCEED

- **Ways to clearly establish academic expectations**
  - Provide a rubric or detailed description of how the assignment will be graded
  - As assignment/exam deadlines approach, take time to review your expectations
- **Ways to demonstrate a willingness to discuss study skills and effective methods of studying**
  - Explicitly describe how reading academic material differs from reading recreational material
  - Provide examples of specific study techniques that have worked for previous students i.e. flash cards
- **Ways to be approachable**
  - Make use of the Class Photo Roster feature in Blackboard to learn names
  - Never underestimate the impact a casual conversation with a faculty member can have on a student's commitment to your course
- **Ways to use instructional techniques that promote deep learning**
  - At various points in class, stop and ask students to summarize the key points so far
  - Provide time for students to work together on a problem before you show them the solution

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