

Faculty Intention to Student Retention Large and Introductory Class Sessions

Getting to Know Your Students



“What does coming to class 10 minutes early look like for you? Not to just set up the class presentation, but to be present for your students and tell them hello when they walk into class. Having a welcoming environment from when they first walk in can make a huge difference in making a connection.”

-Cameron Logsdon, UNO Faculty

Be YOU

- Share your personality! This does not have to include sharing your personal life with students. Don't be afraid to use humor or have an inside joke with your classes.
- Emphasize your office hours. Advertise them and let students know they can come just to say hello.
- Consider renaming “Office Hours” to “Student Drop-In Hours” so students know this time is for them.

Think of UNO as its own Universe(ity)

- Your class might be a student's first experience with college. Help them feel like they are supposed to be here.
- Introduce students to college life in the classroom, students might not know what your syllabus means.
- Take student input about what they want to learn from the class. Is there something they wanted to get out of the class you weren't planning on covering, if so, could it be worked in somehow?

Active Learning GIFTs (Great Ideas For Teaching)

- Pause and ask for questions. Consider grouping students. Group members might answer their own questions and can choose one unanswered question to pose to the entire class.
- Have students write quiz questions. Use some of their questions so they feel engaged in the course material.
- Assign one-minute papers about what they learned in class and identify content they want clarified or want to continue to discuss.

Support and Promote Groups and Activities on Campus

- Mention events on campus that you think your students would be interested in attending or learning more about.
- If one of your students is involved in an event, give them a shout out and encourage others to check it out.
- Make an effort to attend campus events, especially if you know you have students participating.

References

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