



STRATEGIES FOR CONNECTION

Research shows that faculty play a significant role in helping support student retention and success based on the connections they create with their students. Here are some strategies to build connections with your students to support their learning and overall success at UNO.



UPLOAD YOUR SYLLABUS TO CANVAS

Help students plan to meet your course requirements by placing your syllabus in Canvas. Students will be able to see assignment deadlines and view values for assignments.



PLACE STUDENT RESOURCES IN YOUR SYLLABUS

There are a number of resources available to provide students with extra help. Suggested language to consider placing in your syllabus, in addition to the required accessibility statement, on the following resources can be found on the second page of this document:

- Library
- Speech Center
- Math & Science Learning Center
- Writing Center

Students can also be directed to studentsuccess.unomaha.edu for additional information on student resources based on their needs.



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH YOU OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Students have to transition between different classes, work, and other responsibilities. Create space for them to ask questions and interact with you beyond class time.

- Offer virtual office hours (Zoom)
- Use a scheduling app (Calendly, Doodle)
- Build in introductory meetings one on one with students to understand their educational goals



BE APPROACHABLE & ACCESSIBLE

The power dynamic between students and their faculty can make them hesitant to come to you with questions. Think about how to signal to students that you are here to help them be successful in your course.

- Build rapport with students
- Arrive to class early and engage in one on one conversation
- Create opportunities for students to ask questions



PROVIDE FREQUENT & TIMELY FEEDBACK ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Help students gauge their performance and ability to be successful in your course prior to the withdrawal period.

- Use daily note cards/sign-in sheet to allow students to ask questions and review the answers to those questions with the larger group
- Create a few measurements of students' performance earlier in the semester so they can experience your grading standards



TAKE ATTENDANCE

Federal financial aid requirements make this imperative but it also helps flag at risk students.

- Use daily note cards/sign-in sheet to allow students to ask questions and review the answers to those questions with the larger group
- Go paperless and use Canvas attendance feature.



EXPLAIN HOW YOUR OFFICE HOURS WORK

Taking advantage of office hours can be intimidating for students. Explain how students can make use of your office hours whether you prefer they drop-in or schedule time with you.



IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT STUDENTS STRUGGLING

Students may be struggling for a variety of reasons but we have ways to connect them with additional support.

- Reach out by email and encourage a one-on-one meeting
- Recommend students navigating academic challenges visit a learning center on campus
- Refer students with behavioral concerns to the Behavioral Review Team using the report now function on studentsafety.unomaha.edu.



SYLLABUS LANGUAGE TO CONSIDER:

CRISS LIBRARY

UNO's Criss Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Subject specialist librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can give you guidance specifically for your area of study. Students are encouraged to explore customized resources featured on their web site: unomaha.edu/criss-library/research-and-instruction/subject-librarians.php.

MATH-SCIENCE LEARNING CENTER (MSLC)

The Math-Science Learning Center offers peer assisted, independent study in the form of peer tutoring, facilitated study groups and supplemental instruction. The MSLC is here to help all UNO students studying math and science free of charge. Students wishing to work with a peer-tutor simply need to drop in - no appointment is necessary for most courses. Students interested in joining a facilitated study group can sign up simply by visiting the MSLC website. For assistance, please visit the MSLC at 107 Durham Science Center, unomaha.edu/MSLC or call 402-554-3534.

SPEECH CENTER

The UNO Speech Center provides free consulting and coaching services to all UNO students, faculty, and staff in preparing oral presentations. The Speech Center Consulting Room can help you with presentation preparation, outlining, effective delivery techniques, along with any other presentational needs. Speech consulting will help at any stage in the speech-making process, whether you are just starting to develop topic ideas or nearly finished with preparing a presentation.

Make an appointment by calling the Speech Consulting Room at 402-554-3201 or stopping by Arts & Sciences Hall 185. Appointments must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance of scheduled consultation date, allowing the Speech Center to ensure adequate facilitation and instruction. Individuals are encouraged to schedule appointments at least one week prior to their presentation date. More information can be found at: unomaha.edu/speechcenter.

WRITING CENTER

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their hours and locations or to schedule an appointment, go to unomaha.edu/writingcenter or visit them at their main location in Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 150.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

For questions related to Canvas, please contact the Academic Technologies staff in The Office of Digital Learning at UNO.ITS.CANVAS@unomaha.edu.

For additional resources related to instructional excellence, please contact the Center for Faculty Excellence at unofacdev@unomaha.edu.