

HELPING FIRST-GEN STUDENTS SUCCEED



Tips for helping first-generation students succeed in and out of the classroom



TAKE TIME

Spend time reviewing your course syllabus. Be as transparent as possible about expectations in every activity and assignment.

Tell your students:

Task: *What* do I want students to do?

Purpose: *Why* am I asking students to do this?

Criteria: *How* will I evaluate their work?



DEVELOP PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Schedule one-on-one conferences
- Invite or require students to attend office hours
- Invite students to come early or stay after class
- Explain the purpose and benefit of office hours
- Share appropriate personal information



PROVIDE FEEDBACK

- Provide feedback early and often
- Consider utilizing WISE feedback (criticism + high standards + assurance)



USE RUBRICS

- To make explicit the criteria by which complex assignments are evaluated.
- To help students pinpoint learning deficiencies to allow for more targeted improvement efforts
- To assist students in focusing their efforts for an assignment
- To track student progress and adapt learning activities to meet students' content or skill deficits.



PROMOTE GRIT

- Encourage help-seeking behavior
- Increasing cultural capital by demystifying higher education and middle class language and norms
- Encourage students to be self-regulated learners
- Teach students that failure is a normal part of academia and of life