

THE ROBERT AND MARY PEW FACULTY TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER

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

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**
 - 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