

# Encouraging Student Success Through Our Teaching

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## **For further consideration: Here are some of the principles I consider as I teach:**

- It is important for my students to discover that they can succeed and even enjoy having both intellect and perseverance tested and stretched. I want their confidence to grow as they experience challenges successfully.
- Meeting students where they are in their backgrounds, maturity, comfort level with challenging material and situations, and adaptability to university life is crucial in my teaching.
- Equally significant are patiently listening and gently, but firmly, encouraging growth and increasing personal responsibility on the student's part, while modeling integrity and respect. There is great satisfaction in being a part of each student's life at such a crucial time of transition and maturation.
- Creating an environment where students can rediscover their innate curiosity and joy in learning is greatly rewarding. I desire active, thoughtful learning, not simple observing followed by rote memorization.
- I believe that learning should challenge; it should also be engaging and enjoyable. I want my students to enjoy learning throughout their whole lifetimes and to look forward to our class time together.
- I will ensure that my students feel valued and respected, and that they believe their personal growth and intellectual maturing are important to me. This is especially necessary for those younger students still developing self-motivation, perseverance, and confidence in their ability to entertain challenges eagerly.
- I will build on past experiences, taking time in class for something as simple as allowing the more reserved and reflective learners some quiet time to begin their approach to a problem before asking them to confer with a neighbor. I know that ultimately results in more effective collaboration. It is worth it to learn about my students' learning preferences by having them use the inventory at <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>
- I need to be flexible, willing to try new approaches. Instead of asking if there are any questions, I will ask my students, "What questions do you have?" so the question implies that surely there are great questions on their minds.
- It is crucial that I motivate and enable students to transition from the preparation for learning that occurs in the classroom to the work they must do to process and master the concepts, making the knowledge their own. They need to know what to expect and how frequent assessments of their learning will occur. Excellent communication with and fair evaluation of each student are vital.
- I will remember how it felt to be on the cusp of understanding a concept, but frustratingly lacking in the capacity to grasp it completely. Remembering how that felt elicits in me compassion, understanding, and a desire to always anticipate where the biggest challenges lie in the curriculum and how to encourage the struggling student.
- It is important to remind my students that I earnestly desire to challenge each student, but that I will also offer the support needed to enable each to rise to that challenge and ultimately succeed. It is also important to celebrate learning and success with the students.
- I will frequently affirm each student's importance and let them know how much I enjoy them and the confidence I have in their ability to master and apply the course concepts.