Supporting your Students

Different students require different supports at different times throughout their studies. Planning for the lifespan of the course and knowing resources to recommend is valuable.

Before and at the start of the course

Introduce yourself via video or live in class

- Share what you are comfortable sharing about yourself, e.g. a fun fact, your pronouns, background in the subject you are teaching, your experience, your research, your teaching philosophy, etc.

Clearly indicate expectations

- For example, share learning outcomes and expectations around participation, content, assessments and evaluation, grading criteria and rubrics, academic integrity, important dates, etc. that are detailed in your course outline or syllabus on eClass.
- Expected time spent studying in your course is another expectation students want to know. Read Cathy Boyd-Withers' blog post for guidance or consult with your Faculty/Department to ensure your course design aligns with these recommended expectations.

Publicize when and where you are available to meet with students

- Recommendations for office hours

Review any letters of accommodation in a timely manner

- Reach out to students to invite them to share what their specific needs are in your course, and answer any questions they have.

Co-create a positive classroom environment

- Model and promote inclusive practices
  - Incorporate land acknowledgements in-person, or online, into your course
  - Incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles where possible
  - Consider Five Dimensions of Inclusive Excellence
- Collectively develop community agreements with students in your class for live interactions and/or netiquette, where applicable.

Throughout the course

Design and facilitate collaborative learning or group work, in-person or online.

Incorporate formative feedback strategies to check-in with students

- Using Microsoft Forms for activities and feedback
- Class Representatives from Bethune College, Calumet & Stong Colleges

Support student learning and performance on assessments

- Remind students of upcoming due dates with assignment instructions and expectations (e.g. grading criteria and rubrics).
- Provide feedback that improves student performance

Monitor student engagement and check-in with students you are concerned about

Be proactive to avoid challenges, or respond effectively

- Strategies for responding to low participation - motivating students
- Strategies when your students don't do required pre-work (readings, videos, practice, etc.)
  - Why students don't do their homework - and what you can do about it
  - Students don't keep up with the reading
  - Five ways to motivate students to prepare for the flipped classroom
- Strategies for managing conflict - Getting started with managing classroom conflict
- Strategies for facilitating learning of controversial topics
  - Facilitating dialogue and challenging conversations in the classroom
- Strategies for teaching at a time of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)
  - GenAI in teaching and learning
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI) pedagogies resources

Resources

Educate yourself on the resources and supports available to students, including but not limited to (in alphabetical order)

- Athletics & Recreation
- Atkinson Centre for Mature and Part-time Students (ACMAPS)
- Black Excellence at York University (BE YU)

- Centre for Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion
- Centre for Indigenous Student Services
- The Centre for Sexual Violence Response, Support & Education
- Current Students
- ESL Open Learning Centre
- Good2Talk 24-hour Ontario Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454 /Text: GOOD2TALKON to 686868
- goSAFE
- Learning Commons
- Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR)
- Office of the Vice Provost Students
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Counselling, Health & Well-being and York University Student Well-being Resources
- Student Community & Leadership Development
- Student Financial Services
- Support Services for International Students
- York's colleges
- York's free shuttle and other services
- York University Libraries
- York University Student Services
- Writing Centre

📌 Post resources to make them available for students, e.g. in your course outline and on eClass

☛ Recommend and share resources with individual students e.g. during office hours or via email when students ask questions or need support, or reach out individually to students if you recognize a need.

- Identifying and responding to students in distress
- Responding to students in distress