Strategies for Increasing Instructor Presence

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Instructor immediacy can be thought of as the set of behaviors which decrease the perceived psychological distance between the instructor and students.

Instructor presence is “being there” for your students.
Increased instructor immediacy and instructor presence can lead to increased student motivation and learning.


“Welcome” Email/Video

Sending a “welcome” video prior to the first day of class will give your students a chance to see your face and hear your voice. It shows them that you are a real person!

You can also demonstrate how to navigate the LMS.
Online students can respond via email or use of an online tool such as the journal feature in Blackboard.

This is a good way to help connect students with available resources.
Personalized Emails

Sending personalized emails using the student’s first name helps to emphasize that you see the student and they belong in your class.

Students may respond to these emails when they would have been shy to initiate contact on their own.
Dr. Hood,

Thank you for reaching out. My mother had rotator cuff surgery last week and I have had to become more involved with her at-home care more than originally planned. She lives alone and is not able to get around as well as we had hoped after surgery. These past couple of weeks have been extra crazy in my personal life and unfortunately, I missed the Excel deadline as well as the first lesson for this week. I will have help tonight and this weekend and will be able to catch up/work ahead. Is there any way to turn in the assignment for partial credit?

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out! I am just trying to get a hold on my classes, it's been an adjustment after being out of class for over 3 months. Also, I know I'm going to need some help with some tutoring. Last year I tutored weekly with my [removed] for finite on Microsoft Teams, but I am not sure how to set a tutoring session for this class. Just a little overwhelmed right now! Thank you for reaching out I appreciate it.
Don’t be afraid to share your life with your students. Talking about your family or your hobbies emphasizes that you are a real person with whom the students can connect.
Invite Students to Office Hours

One way to encourage students to attend office hours is to send out personal invitations.

This is another way to show students that you see them!
Temperature Check

Periodically ask students to share a (family friendly!) picture or graphic to describe how they are feeling about the class.

This activity encourages student interaction but also gives you an opening to contact struggling students.

Academic Improvement Plan

Name __________________________ # __________________
Course Name: ________________ Meeting Days/Times: _______
Faculty Name: _____________ Today's Date: _________

Reasons for academic success in previous semesters include the following:

- I did not miss class when I was feeling unwell.
- I had time to study regularly.
- I attended class regularly.
- I participated in class discussions.
- I received help from classmates.
- I used resources available to me.

Other:

To improve my academic performance in this class, I will implement the following strategies:

- I will attend class regularly and prepare for class by doing homework.
- I will meet with my instructor during office hours at least once per week.
- I will complete all assignments on time.
- I will take notes during class and review them regularly.
- I will use a study schedule to manage my time effectively.
- I will ask questions when I don't understand the material.
- I will review my notes and textbook after each class.
- I will complete all assignments on time.

Other:

I hereby agree to abide by the terms of this academic improvement plan.

[Signature]
Date: _________
Family Signature: _________

Survey of Calculus

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Thank you for being here!

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