10 Strategies for Fostering Student Engagement in the First Year Seminar

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Total Enrollment: 28,962

- In State: 89%
- Out of State: 11%
- Online: 25%
- On-Campus: 75%
- Female: 59%
- Male: 41%
First Year Experience at ECU

COAD 1000… Student Development & Learning in Higher Education
Optional, 1 semester hour class

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Campus Engagement
- Academic Engagement
  - Student Learning
  - Personal Development
Student Engagement

- Attention
- Curiosity
- Motivation
- Interest
- Participation

- Optimism
- Sense of belonging
- Persistence
- Success

(Hidden curriculum, 2014)
- Withdrown
- Bored
- Disengaged
- Alienated
- Passive
#1 – Build Rapport

- Get to know your student’s names
- Meet with students outside of class
- Learn something unique about each student
- Share some of your college experiences
- Arrive early, stay late

- Emphasize active learning – don’t lecture
- Reward students for participation
- Be enthusiastic about teaching
- Lighten-up; show your sense of humor

(Buskist & Saville, 2001)
## #2 - Special Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>FIP (Freshman Immersion Program)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Generation</td>
<td>Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-professional</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT/A</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Major Specific</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Major Specific Sections

- Taught by advisor in major
- Connections with professionals
- Connections with upperclassmen
- Shared major classes
- Establish relationships with peers
- Form study groups
#3 – Ice Breakers

Fun
Movement
Friendships
Common threads
Communicating
Open up

2 Truths & a Lie
Conversation Ball
#4 - Class Size and Set-up

- BIOL 1050: 250 students
- PSYC 1000: 120 students
- MATH 1050: 50 students
- ENGL 1100: 25 students
- COAD 1000: 20 students
#5 - Shared Learning

Short-Term Groups

- Promotes social interaction
- Know peers on a personal level
- Less anxiety in smaller group
- More engaged in learning
- Friendly competition
- Become accountable to one another
- Work together on projects/presentations

Long-Term Groups


Shared Learning

Skill Development

- Leadership skills
- Communication skills
- Conflict management skills
- Decision making skills
#6 - In-Class Activities

- Newspaper
- Sticky Notes
- Games
- Vision Boards
- Freshman Anthem
#7 - Out-of-Class Activities

- Scavenger Hunt
- Volunteer Opportunity
- Campus Sponsored Events
- Field Trips
  - Computer Labs
  - Pirate Academic Success Center
  - Career Center
  - Student Recreation Center
  - Library
#8 - Building Community

- Collaboration in the classroom
- Create classroom rules together
- Designate your classroom a “safe zone”
- Discuss courses they are taking (advising)
- Share the decision making
- Celebrate student accomplishments or special occasions
- Provide opportunities for student interaction

Nevins, K. (2010)
Activities Outside the Classroom

Volunteer
Intramurals
Common Assignments
Freshmen Convocation
Common Large Freshmen Seminar Presentations
#9 - Break Routine

- Allow yourself to go off syllabus
- Invite guest speakers into class
- Take your class outside on a nice day
- Flip the class
- Human Likert Scales
- Videos
- Candy - food
# 10 - Effective Teaching

- Attend first year seminar training
- Peer Observations
- Co-teach
- Join professional organizations (NACADA)
- Professional development
- Take a Public Speaking Class
- Adapt your style of teaching
University vs. Community College

- Different population
- Age gaps
- Reason for taking course
- Outside obligations
- Level of engagement
- Respect – Comfort – Support System