

# Teaching Tip Series

## Assess Student Expectations Early in the Semester

Stating your expectations for student behavior early in the semester will help to orient students to the type of learning and classroom behaviors you expect from them throughout the entire semester, but it's not the only early-semester strategy that will help set your students up for success (Nilson, 2016). Assessing your students' expectations for the course is just as important, as it will help you determine whether you and your students are on the same page about the learning journey you're about to undertake together. You can opt to have an in-class discussion where you ask students to share their expectations, set up an online discussion forum, or you can choose to administer a survey (an example of such a survey appears below). No matter which method you choose, make sure to ask students specific questions about their expectations regarding learning activities, faculty-student interactions, participation, technology use, and assignment feedback. Once you've assessed what your students' expectations for the course are, you can involve students in a dialogue about how to bring your expectations into alignment and address any misconceptions students might have.

### References:

Nilson, L. B. (2016). *Teaching at its best: A research-based resource for college instructors* (4th ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

## Survey of Expectations for [SAMPLE COURSE NAME]

In which of the following ways do you expect to participate in the course during the semester? (check all that apply)

- Contributing to small-group discussions
- Asking questions in class
- Completing group projects
- Completing assignments individually
- Reading the textbook or other readings
- Posting on online discussion boards
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Of the above, please indicate 2-3 that contribute the most to your learning:

\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following activities do you expect to experience in this course? (check all that apply)

- Lectures
- Demonstrations
- In-class discussions
- Non-textbook readings
- Small discussion groups
- Group projects
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Of the above, please indicate 2-3 that contribute the most to your learning:

\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following do you expect your instructor to do throughout the semester? (check all that apply)

- Hold office hours
- Interact with students in class
- Be accessible outside office hours
- Know students' names
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How quickly do you expect the instructor to do each of the following:

	Immediately	Within 24 hours	Within 2 days	Within a week	Never	N/A
Respond to emails						
Respond to calls						
Be available to meet in person						
Return work with feedback						
Post grades						