

# Connecting with your students

(adapted from Cornell University Center for Teaching Innovation)

<b>Who are your students?</b>	
<b>The creation of a mutually beneficial and exciting learning environment</b>	On the first day of class, share some information about yourself including background, research interest, personal website, why you enjoy teaching this course
<b>Why they are taking your class?</b>	
<b>Better understanding of the audience</b>	Collect information about students on the first day such as their name, year in college, reason for taking the course, previous exposure to course content.
	Use index cards or Canvas survey to collect this information and refer to this information when interacting with students
<b>How can you improve their learning in and out of class</b>	
<b>Increase student engagement</b>	Step away from the podium Smile and incorporate humor to create ease and a relaxed atmosphere Be available and encourage students to meet with you, either during office hours or after class.
<b>The feeling among students that they are valued</b>	Learn students' names. Ask students questions about their experiences related to course content.

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(adapted from University of Illinois Chicago Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence)

<b>Before the Course Begins</b>	Email your students a few days before your class begins
<b>Introduce Yourself</b>	What do you love about teaching the course? Why did you choose to study or work in your discipline? Personal details you feel comfortable sharing
<b>Course Introduction Video</b>	Explain how your course will be delivered Emphasize how students can connect with you
<b>Ask Students to Introduce Themselves</b>	Collect information via a First Day Survey -Pronouns and Names -Student's Academic Goals and Needs -Student's Interest Outside of Class
<b>Have Students Communication with One Another</b>	One word - one word that best describes you or your life Take a picture of... - post and share with the class (New) Favorite Thing - what you have recently discovered that has become one of your new favorite things
<b>Engage Students in Active Learning</b>	Ask students to do something on the first day in order to set expectations for participation and to spark learning and enthusiasm
<b>Ask Students to Think About the Course Metacognitively</b>	Ask students to reflect on what they know, what they need to know, and the learning strategies they will need to be successful