

Setting the Expectations

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

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THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

Instructors have both the right to set the standards for student behaviour in the classroom. Students look to the instructor for guidance and modeling of appropriate classroom behaviour.

Step one

Define the standards. Give some thought to what kind of behaviour you want in the classroom. Discuss it at your department meetings and come to agreement.

Step two

Inform your students of the expectations. Be specific. Providing the information in writing is helpful, but keep in mind that people are better at meeting expectations if they are delivered orally. Also, it often takes three iterations before people actually hear the message.

Step three

Monitor compliance with the expectations. For individual infractions, meet with the student in private and reiterate the expectations. For group non-compliance, re-state the expectations publically. If students fail to comply after being reminded, ask them to leave the room.

Step four

For repeated problematic behaviour, notify the department chair with clear information as to the steps taken to state and reinforce the expectations.

Suggestions

Provide the expectations in writing at the start of class. Review the expectations orally and then again two weeks later. If the expectations are slipping, remind the students again orally at mid-term.

1. To limit cell phone use, media devices or laptop use in the classroom, try: "All cell phones and media devices must be turned off and out of sight."
2. To ensure orderly classroom discussion, try: "To ensure respectful discussion, students will speak one at a time. All students will have an opportunity to participate. Those who dominate discussions will be reminded of the rights of all students to participate."
3. To ensure civil and respectful classroom behaviour try: "The behaviour expected of students in the learning environment mirrors that which is found in the employment environment. Horse-play, use sarcasm, put downs or insults during class will be reminded of the expectation for civil and respectful discourse."
4. To limit disagreement during classroom discussions try: "The educational setting encourages the free flow of ideas, some of which may conflict. To ensure productive discussion, the instructor will limit disagreement in the classroom. Students are free to meet with the instructor in private to explore their ideas."
5. To enable orderly consultation with the instructor around student questions and concerns, try: "The instructor is available to meet with students to discuss questions and concerns during office hours. Students are requested to make an appointment."
6. If the instructor does not have office hours try: "The instructor will be available for ten minutes at the end of class to discuss questions or concerns. These will be addressed on a first come, first served basis."