

Faculty Role in Classroom Retention Strategies
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Retention Goal: To provide students with lively, substantive learning for personal growth.

Vehicle: Through improved programs and services in the classroom and elsewhere on campus.

Result: Optimum Retention – the more they learn, the more likely they are to stay.

Retention Myths

- Retention means lowering standards
- Retention is the responsibility of student services
- Dropouts are flunkouts
- Under-prepared students are from lower or disadvantaged groups
- Students drop out mostly because of finances, work, or family pressures

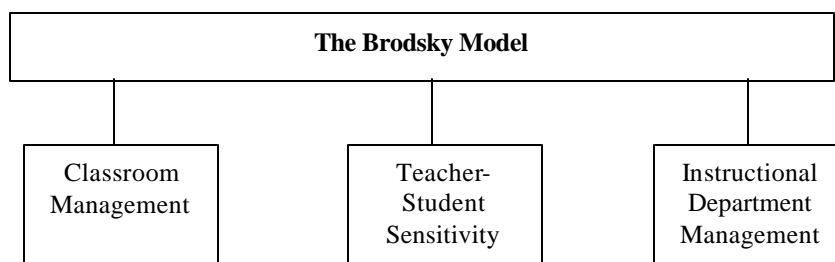
Retention Fact

- 37% of students who leave college reported they did not feel connected to the college
- Retention success resides in the work of faculty and in the institution's capacity to construct educational communities that actively engage students in learning

What is Needed for Optimum Retention?

- A reshaping of students academic experience with an emphasis on both the academic and social communities
- Total involvement of faculty, the primary educators of students
- Continued implementation of learning communities collaborative learning programs enabling faculty and students to work together as active participants in the learning process

Proven Classroom Retention Strategies



Classroom Management

- Set positive tone
- Review study skills
- Encourage out-of-class group study
- Monitor class involvement
- Know different learning styles
- Be aware of barriers to learning
- Be aware of some students' lack of support systems
- Encourage high aspirations

Teacher-Student Sensitivity

- Encourage all students
- Create a nurturing environment
- Treat men and women alike
- Be sensitive to other demands students may have

Instructional Department Management

- Establish good coordination between faculty and counselors
- Help students make connections between education, employment or other goals
- Maintain a staff-wide commitment to retention
- Insist on accurate course descriptions
- Call students who are absent (It works!)

Examples of Other Proven Classroom Retention Strategies

- Clarify policies
- Provide outlines of lecture notes and study guides
- Incorporate early positive reinforcement
- Encourage use of external resources – library, labs, tutoring, and encourage study groups
- Incorporate team teaching
- Assign midterm grades with plans for improvement

Approaches to Classroom Retention

Stephanie Carravello-Hibbert

- Actively facilitate learning in the self-paced lab
- Move beyond traditional lecture
- Develop CDs to teach astronomy and science
- Frequently call students
- Maintain high level of faculty/student interaction

Approaches to Classroom Retention

Bill Rice

- Sets tone for learning by establishing reciprocity and encourage students during initial classes to discuss commitment to learning
- Encourage dialogue and heightened faculty-student interaction. Monitors student progress and intervenes at the first sign of trouble
- Believe that, "Interaction with students on a personal level is one answer to helping retention."

Approaches to Classroom Retention
Paul Glasgow

- Believes climate is important to attracting and retaining students
- Uses inclusionary strategies to make students feel welcome and a part of the educational experience
- Maintains high level of faculty-student interaction
- Actively involved in the advising of students

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