

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Encouraging student interaction in learning activities helps students build relational and networking skills which are valuable in maintaining well-being.

Suggestions:

1. Have students get to know each other early in the course, using introduction exercises and emphasizing the importance of personal connection.
2. Provide information on group process function to guide students in anticipating and navigating projects requiring group work.
3. Encourage students to participate in study groups.
4. Include marks for positive group process in the grading of group assignments.
5. When possible, organize your classroom with tables and chairs that can be pulled into “pods” to facilitate small-group discussion.
6. Design lecture assignments that require students to work collectively on study questions.
7. Encourage students to form “buddy teams”, to study and also to share lecture notes, should one partner miss a lecture.
8. Have activities like mini- breaks, where students are encouraged to find out certain things about each other on a personal level.
9. Encourage peer review and peer evaluation, using a review template or rubric.