The Student-Faculty Connection

As your student has likely discovered, college professors teach differently than high school teachers. Some professors will lecture more while others will require a lot of interaction and discussion, and still others will have class break into small groups and work together. The coursework is more complex and there is much more of it. Professors will definitely move through content at a faster pace than in high school.

Your student's success in college and beyond may depend on successful connections with professors because professors can help students land career-enhancing internships, participate in impressive research projects and gain graduate school admission. The following tips can lead your student to making the most of these important connections:

Connecting In Class
The first step is making a good impression in the classroom. It may seem like a no-brainer, but students who are prepared, arrive on time, pay attention and stay for the whole class are well on their way to establishing a positive relationship with their professors. While many professors do not take attendance, they do notice who is there and who is not, and being absent without a reasonable excuse does not reflect well. Some students will skip class just because they can, but later may regret it when they are actually sick and really have to miss class (especially if there is an attendance requirement).

Connecting Outside Class
The next step is to be proactive about coursework. Professors won't force students to come for extra help. If your student is having trouble understanding something or is concerned about grades, assignments, attendance or other aspects of the class, urge him or her to make an appointment or drop by the professor's office hours. If your student has another class during the professor's office hours, most professors are only too happy to schedule another time that is more convenient to your student. Your student should make notes of what is to be covered and bring relevant materials such as exams, notes and textbook along. It is also a great time to get clarification on points not understood in class.

Many students are nervous at the thought of meeting one-on-one with their professors. Encourage your student to stay positive and turn every encounter into something constructive. Remind your student that even the most demanding professors want their students to succeed and will respect student initiative in seeking to improve.

Connecting With Disability Support (DSS)
Current national trends show that more students with identified disabilities are attending classes at the university level, and LMU has seen a similar increase. The **Disability Support Services (DSS) Office** offers resources to enable students with physical, learning and/or psychological disabilities to achieve maximum independence while pursuing their educational goals. Staff specialists interact with all areas of the University to eliminate physical and attitudinal barriers. Students must provide documentation for their disability from an appropriate licensed professional. Services are offered to students who have established disabilities under state and federal laws. DSS also advises students, faculty and staff regarding disability issues. Students with special needs who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, academic accommodations or housing accommodations should direct their request to the DSS Office as early as possible. The review and approval process takes time. All discussions are confidential. The DSS Office is located in Daum Hall, and they can be contacted at (310) 338-4216.

**Connecting with Other Campus Resources**

Sometimes it is not just the course material that presents a challenge and the real difficulty is with study skills or time management. The **University Advisors** can assist students in properly managing their time, workload and preparing to be academically successful.

Additionally, the **Katz Family Academic Skills Program**, provides individual learning strategy sessions for students who may present with identified learning disorders such as dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and/or other learning differences. Some areas of focus include time management, study strategies, issues related to attention, focus, and motivation.

Navigating a new environment can always create challenges and **Student Success** is always here to help! Student Success is the one-stop shop for any questions or concerns your student may have about any aspect of their LMU experience like roommate issues, academic concerns, how to get involved on campus, locating on campus resources, or finding an on campus job. We encourage students to stop by the office in Malone Student Center Building, Suite 301, call (310) 338-5252 or e-mail studentsuccess@lmu.edu. We're here to help!

Be on the lookout for our next article *What You Should Know About Your Student’s Advisor* that will provide tips help your student make the most out of a meeting with their advisor.

Until next time!

Lisha Maddox  
Associate Director of Student Success

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**If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at lmuparentprograms@lmu.edu.**

**Visit our Parent Pride website for additional articles and resources!**