What does respect and concern for students look like?

- Listening to what students say.
- Providing students time to think and respond with their ideas.
- Recognizing students’ ideas in a serious, valued manner.
- Exhibiting an interest in the academic success of your students.

**BE CONSISTENT IN YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS**

Providing consistent interactions with students constructs a learning environment that students find relatable from class to class. Providing opportunities to one student, but not all, can be perceived as not caring about the academic performance of all students.

**LISTEN TO YOUR STUDENTS, AND RESPOND IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER**

Listen to students’ questions so that you answer their concerns and not your perceptions, or expectations, of their inquiries. Do not engage in words or actions that embarrass or belittle students.

**LEARN THE NAMES OF YOUR STUDENTS**

Students appreciate when you know their names and use them in class instead of just pointing at individuals. Using your students’ names is perceived as an indication that you care about their presence and well-being in the class.

**KEEP YOUR WORD**

If you make promises to students or changes to the course, be sure to follow through with whatever you said you were going to do. Your students need to know they can count on you.

http://learningenvironment.ctl.gatech.edu
“...Your demeanor and the system you create within the class structure both encourage academic and creative exploration, and foster a welcoming, engaging environment for conversation and learning. You were never intimidating or arrogant, and always welcomed thoughts and questions, and made all of our ideas feel valid and worth consideration...”
— from a “Thank-a-Teacher” note to Carl DiSalvo, Literature, Media, & Communications

EXHIBIT PATIENCE WITH YOUR STUDENTS

Students will occasionally frustrate you and may even test you. Respect and concern for students means treating them as equals, and not disparaging them, even if their actions are inappropriate.

BE PREPARED AND ACT CONFIDENTLY IN CLASS

Come prepared to class. Coming to class ill-prepared signals to students that you do not value their time and learning needs.

TREAT STUDENTS AS EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

A significant factor for building respect is how you treat others. As instructors, you can establish a class environment of respect and concern by engaging students as emerging young professionals in your field.

REFERENCES


