



Student Success at Mason

Student Retention Information for Faculty

The research on college student retention is clear: students need to build relationships with faculty and peers. These relationships contribute to a student's sense of belonging that promotes persistence. As faculty, you are in a position to challenge and support students. This engagement with students can make a difference in their academic success and their decision to persist.

Did you know....?

- 12.5% of Mason freshmen do not return for sophomore year.
- Mason surveys students using the Patriot Success early alert system in weeks 5 and 6 of fall semester.
- Last fall, 36% of surveyed students reported struggling in one class; 17% reported struggling in two or more classes.

What can faculty do?

1. Engage students in their learning by using active learning pedagogies.
2. Connect course content to students' lives through discussion and assignments.
3. Set clear, high expectations for student performance and offer regular feedback.
4. Make time for students; invite students to meet with you if they are struggling or missing class.
5. Build on students' backgrounds and prior knowledge; invite diverse perspectives into the classroom.
6. Provide feedback on student progress when requested (e.g., mid-term grades in 100 and 200-level courses and progress reports on athletes, etc.).
7. Refer students to campus resources, as needed, such as the Writing Center, Counseling & Psychological Services, or Learning Services.

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