

University of Toledo  
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# Helping Students Learn & Succeed

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# Who Are Successful Students?

- They **achieve their goals**.
  - *Higher standard of living*
- They have achieved their goals in a **cost-effective** fashion.
- They have **learned what they need to succeed** at subsequent pursuits.
- They have learned all this at appropriate levels of **rigor**.

# What Do Students Most Need to Learn?

- Teamwork and collaboration skills
- Articulating ideas clearly and effectively
- Real-world problem solving
- Evaluating information and conclusions
- Flexibility and adaptability to change
- Creativity and innovation
- Working with people from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Ethical judgment
- Understanding numbers and statistics

**WHAT HELPS STUDENTS  
LEARN?**

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They see **clear relevance and value** in their learning activities.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They are instilled with a **“can do” attitude.**

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They are academically challenged and given **high but attainable expectations**, such as through assignments with scaffolding.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- **Learning activities and grades focus on important learning outcomes.**
  - *Faculty organize curricula, teaching practices, and assessments to help students achieve important learning outcomes.*
  - *Students spend their time and energy learning what they will be graded on.*

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They understand course and program learning outcomes and the **characteristics of excellent work**, often through a rubric.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They **spend significant time and effort studying** and practicing.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- **They interact meaningfully with faculty** — face-to-face and/or online.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They **collaborate with other students** —face-to-face and/or online—including those unlike themselves.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- New learning is **related to their prior experiences and what they already know**, through both concrete, relevant examples and challenges to their existing paradigms.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They **learn by doing, through hands-on practice engaging in multidimensional “real world” tasks**, rather than by listening to lectures.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They **use their learning to explore, apply, analyze, justify, and evaluate**, because facts memorized in isolation are quickly forgotten.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They participate in **out-of-class activities** that build on what they are learning in the classroom.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They can **obtain support** when they need it: academic, social, personal, and financial.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They receive **frequent, prompt, concrete feedback** on their work, followed by opportunities to **revise** their work.

# What Helps Students Learn?

- They **integrate and see coherence** in their learning through
  - *Reflecting on what and how they have learned.*
  - *Constructing their own learning into meaningful frameworks.*
  - *Synthesizing capstone experiences.*

# What Helps Students Learn?

- Their university and its faculty and staff truly **focus on helping students learn and succeed** and on **improving** student learning and success.

- Students are **actively engaged** in their learning.
- Faculty and students **share responsibility** for their learning.

**A learning-centered university actively fosters these practices.**

**WHAT HELPS STUDENTS  
PERSIST & SUCCEED?**

# **What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?**

- Engagement with faculty and other students

# What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?

- Clear and high expectations

# What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?

- Academic, social, personal, and financial support

# **What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?**

- Frequent, prompt, and concrete feedback

# What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?

- Exposure to diverse viewpoints

# What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?

- Opportunities to
  - *Analyze*
  - *Justify*
  - *Evaluate*
  - *Integrate*
  - *Reflect*

# What Helps Students Persist & Succeed?

- “Make students want to come back”  
– *Ken O’Donnell*

**WHAT IS A STUDENT-CENTERED  
UNIVERSITY?**

- The university and its faculty and staff truly **focus on**
  - *helping students learn and succeed.*
  - *improving student learning and success.*

- The college understands its students and what they most need in order to succeed.
- Responsibility for student success is broadly shared, and strategies for student success are appropriately integrated.
- Student success is a high priority, and strategies are purposefully designed to help students succeed.
- Good quality, useful evidence is collected regarding student success.
- Evidence is used to understand and improve student success.

# A Student-Centered University is Collaborative

- The college understands its students and what they most need in order to succeed.
- Responsibility for student success is **broadly shared**, and strategies for student success are **appropriately integrated**.
- Student success is a high priority, and strategies are purposefully designed to help students succeed.
- Good quality, useful evidence is collected regarding student success.
- Evidence is used to understand and improve student success.

# A Student-Centered University Routinely Uses Evidence

- The college **understands its students and what they most need** in order to succeed.
- Responsibility for student success is broadly shared, and strategies for student success are appropriately integrated.
- Student success is a high priority, and strategies are purposefully designed to help students succeed.
- **Good quality, useful evidence is collected** regarding student success.
- **Evidence is used to understand and improve student success.**

**MAKING UT MORE**

***STUDENT-CENTERED***

***COLLABORATIVE***

***EVIDENCE-INFORMED***

# Make Student Learning & Success a Priority



# Value **Great** Teaching

- A great teacher is always improving.
  - *Definition of teaching excellence*
  - *P&T criteria*
  - *A semester of grace*

# Value Collaboration

- *Others teaching your course*
- *In your program*
- *In your gen ed requirement*
- *Across programs*
- *Co-curricular programs*
- *Institution-wide*
- Funding priority for collaborative projects

# Keep Assessment Useful...and Used

- Informs **big, important** decisions
  - *Resource allocations*
  - *Strategic goals and plans*
  - *“Curriculum development grants”*

# Make Evidence Easy to Understand

- Short, simple, clear
- Easy to find
- Make a clear, meaningful point
  - *It's all about goals.*

# Periodically Regroup & Reflect



Has this assessment been useful?

Has its value been in proportion to the time and money put into it?

# What is a **Student-Centered** University?

- The university and its faculty and staff truly **focus** on
  - **helping** *students learn and succeed.*
  - **improving** *student learning and success*
  - *through*
    - **Collaboration**
    - **Evidence**