

# TIPS FOR ENHANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## A NOTE FOR INSTRUCTORS

The following document is a practical resource for **Purdue instructors** with research-based strategies and tips for boosting student engagement, both within and beyond the classroom.

*Check out the other side of this page to view engagement tips and strategies designed for Purdue students.*



VISIT PURDUE'S INNOVATIVE LEARNING  
WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO MORE RESOURCES



## ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC HUMAN CONNECTIONS

- Keep in mind that your students are human beings with lives outside of class.
- Display your own humanity; let your uniqueness and idiosyncrasies come through.
- Model intellectual approaches and share your process of solving difficult problems.

## FOSTER CURIOSITY



- Pull students in with examples of unanswered questions and mysteries within your discipline.
- Communicate your passion for your subject.
- Recognize that emotions guide learning.



## USE VARIETY TO ACTIVATE COGNITION

- Vary activities and pedagogical approaches.
- Switch between the students and you as idea generators.
- Consider having students physically move, discuss with one another, pose and answer questions, or apply newly gained knowledge.
- Incorporate flexibility within structure by offering students choices where possible.



## BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

- Emphasize the value each student brings to the learning environment.
- Encourage study groups and shared documents.
- Survey the students during Week 1 and ask what they want to get out of the course.

## SET THE TONE EARLY, OFTEN

- Consider all of these strategies **when planning** your course.
- Explicitly communicate the value of the in-person learning environment, as well as the benefits of attending class and participating in discussions.
- Use the first class period to model the type of engagement you want to see.
- Emphasize where the syllabus encourages attendance and participation.



## CONVEY THE RELEVANCE OF THE CONTENT

- Integrate actual real-life examples.
- Explain the benefit of the lesson beyond the discipline.
- Challenge students to connect the material to their own lives.



## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Get plenty of sleep and exercise, and eat healthy foods.
- Be explicit with yourself and your students regarding the boundaries you have set (e.g., responding to emails only during business hours).
- Experiment with a range of coping strategies.
- Minimize emotional exhaustion.



Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

# TIPS FOR ENHANCING ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

## A NOTE FOR STUDENTS

The following document is a practical resource for **Purdue students** with research-based strategies and tips for boosting your engagement, both within and beyond the classroom.

*Check out the other side of this page to view engagement tips and strategies designed for Purdue instructors.*



VISIT PURDUE'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO MORE RESOURCES



## ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC HUMAN CONNECTIONS

- Keep in mind, your instructors are human beings who experience struggles and may make mistakes from which you can learn.
- Remember, your peers are human beings with lives outside of class and with experiences that are different than yours; you can learn from each other.

## BE CURIOUS AND FIND YOUR PASSION(S)

- Remember that being a student is a scholarly and active endeavor.
- Allow yourself to wonder and be affected — be open to difficult content, conversations, and growth through uncomfortable moments.
- Share what you have learned with someone each day.
- Ask questions — in class, during office hours, and to yourself.
- Ask your instructors about their research.



## USE (AND EXPECT) VARIETY

- Be prepared to engage in a variety of ways, which requires more than just showing up and listening.
- Use a variety of study strategies to learn (this will likely require some trial and error).
- Appreciate and adapt to the different teaching methods your instructors use.

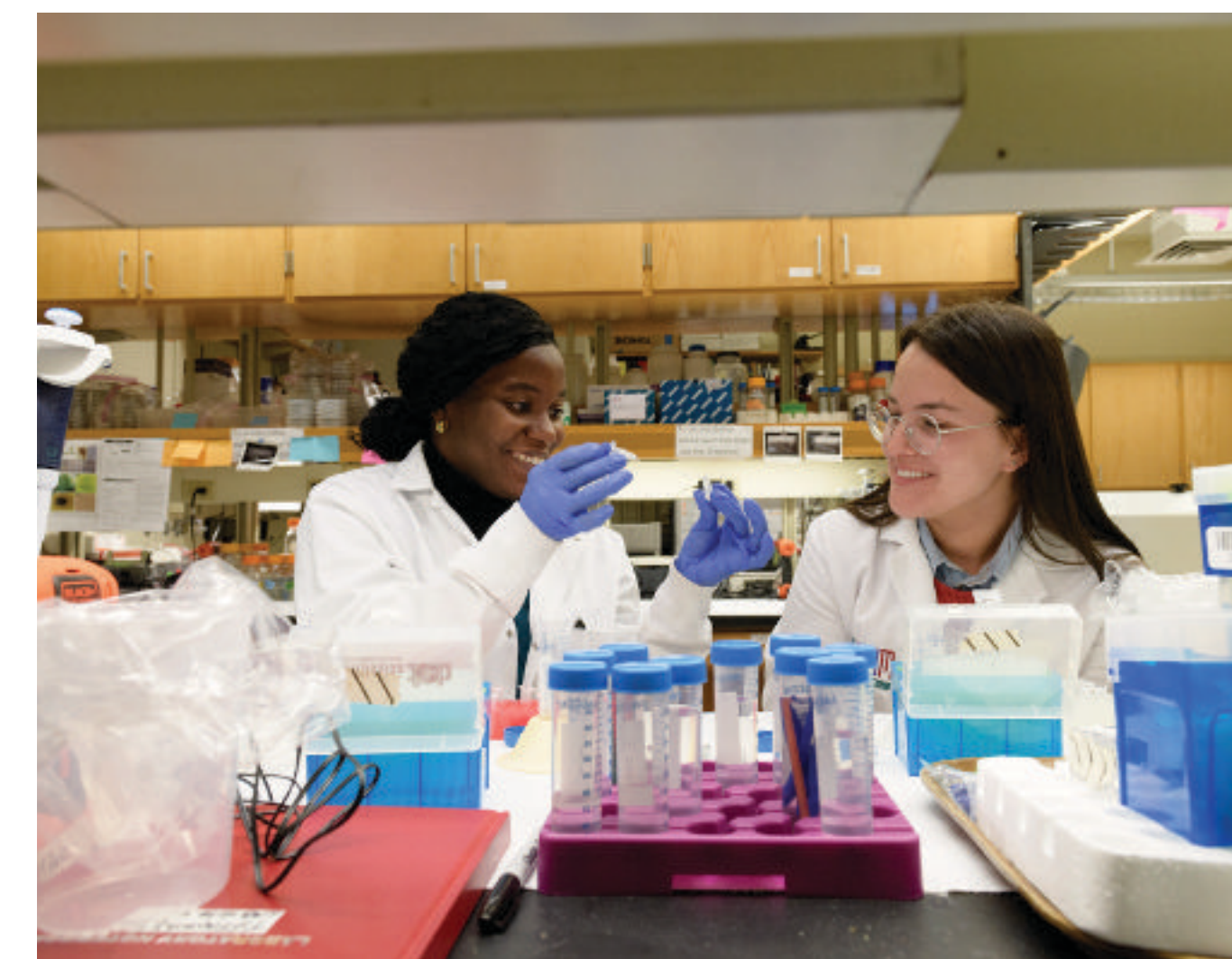


## BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- Challenge yourself to put down your phone and engage with your neighbors before the start of class.
- Push through the awkwardness and talk with peers and instructors.
- Learn the names of your instructors and your classmates.

## SET THE TONE FOR YOUR SEMESTER EARLY, OFTEN

- **Begin now.** This all starts from Day 1 of class.
- Build good habits early related to attendance and class participation. Engaging in class will help you maximize your success in achieving learning outcomes.
- Read and review the syllabus, course schedules, and other guidelines.
- Anticipate your workload and schedule, and make a plan that includes proactive communication with your instructors.



## EXPLORE THE CONTENT'S RELEVANCE

- Connect course materials to your life.
- Draw connections between concepts across different courses; mention these connections specifically in activities and assignments.
- Discover how your discipline relates to and intersects with other fields of study.



## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Get plenty of sleep and exercise, and eat healthy foods.
- Develop the life skill of seeking out resources related to your holistic learning, including learning how to manage your stress levels.
- Experiment with a range of coping strategies.
- Minimize emotional exhaustion.

Students with questions about this content may email Purdue's Academic Success Center.  
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