

Connecting with Students

Connecting with students is at the core of what we do as faculty members at Elizabethtown College. In this one-pager, we share some questions to ask students to help them feel empowered in their roles as learners, to self-reflect, and to encourage mutual understanding between students and faculty. These can be posed in a Canvas questionnaire or on note cards at the beginning of the semester to gain an initial understanding of your students, or they may also be helpful discussion starters during office hours or advising sessions. Choose a few questions below to help you connect to the realities, hopes, and goals of your students.

Connecting is a path to recognizing dignity, both your own and your students.

~Rev. Amy Shorner-Johnson

Questions Related to Course and Academics

- What are you most looking forward to in this class?
- What, if anything, gives you pause about this class?
- What can I do to create a positive learning environment for you?
- What are your “go to” strategies for being successful in your academics?
- Is there anything that helps you be less afraid of asking questions?
- How will I as a professor know if you are disconnecting/distracted?
- What are you most nervous/anxious about in this class?

Questions Related to Responsibilities

- If you'll be working this semester, how many hours will you be working?
- How much family responsibility do you have?"
- Are you a commuter or residential student?
- Share your typical weekend plans. Will you be on campus? At home?

Questions about Extracurriculars and Co-Curriculars

- What types of co-curricular activities do you enjoy?
- In what clubs, organizations, or service projects are you involved?
- In what sports teams are you involved?
- How do you engage in self-care?
- What are your sleep habits?
- What would be a perfect day for you?



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