The Home Stretch

Your students are very aware that the semester is almost over. For some of them, this news brings welcome excitement about the holidays and a well-deserved break. For others, this news brings panic and urgency about grades that may not be what they had hoped, with limited opportunity for redemption. And some of your students have relished the newfound independence they have as college students and have anxiety about returning home with their parents for an extended break.

As you work with your students this week, encourage them to use their remaining time wisely. Encourage them to make a schedule of their final exams and to plan a study schedule to prepare for those exams. Academic Support Programs offers Preparing for Final Exam Workshops as well as helpful study strategies tips.

If your students are struggling in a course, they may benefit from using Tutoring or Supplemental Instruction. If there are particular study strategies you have found helpful for your class or in general, consider sharing those with students, even if you have already done so earlier in the semester. This may also be a ripe teaching moment for you to encourage them to reflect on their personal and academic habits as they prepare for Spring. Students may be more likely to listen to your wise counsel than they were at the beginning of the semester.

Thank you for your excellent work this semester. Thank you for the time you have spent talking with your students, listening to them, connecting them with resources, and challenging them to grow as scholars. Thank you for your innovative pedagogy and your eagerness to help our first-semester students begin their academic and professional careers with success. Thank you for the emotional energy you have invested in them and for the care and concern you bring to the classroom every day.

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