Week 2

Establish Relationships with Students

Please encourage your students to visit with you during office hours, whether to address specific learning objectives or just to develop a relationship. If time permits, meet with each student individually, or meet with them in groups of 3-5, to discuss things like homesickness, time management, campus involvement, and areas of academic strengths or weaknesses. Check out this resource for preparing for office hours.

First Generation College Students: Encourage each student to build their own culture of success, based on their own unique strengths and goals. Comparing with others is not always helpful. When given opportunity, help your students understand their college years as a time of formation and development, with much more extensive benefits than just a degree.

Consider helping FGCS learn how to assess their own individual learning and to develop their own sets of behaviors, skills, attitudes, and strategies, all of which will be crucial to achieving positive academic performance throughout their Baylor careers.

Transfers: Transfer students come to Baylor for a variety of reasons, often with a complex personal story as to why and how they got here. As an instructor, giving your students a safe place to share their story and experiences with their peers and with you could go far in establishing significance in your classroom. Whether you have your class break into small groups, or you meet one on one with them, it is important for them to share their story. When you hear the reason why they are hear, you can more fully appreciate the perspective they bring to your class, and more appropriately challenge and encourage them.

Fall Transition Assessment: Each Fall all incoming students are encouraged to participate in a Mapworks Assessment, which will become available to students on September 9. Mapworks uses predictive analysis and student data to help students evaluate their current academic performance. The assessment will connect students with campus resources that will allow them to proactively make meaningful changes to their behavior as they see fit. Please distribute the Mapworks highlighters this week to remind students to take the Mapworks assessment next week when it becomes available.
**Academic Resources:** Check out the [Paul L. Foster Success Center](#) and encourage students to visit the Success Center so that if they need help in a class now or later, they will know where to find help. **Academic Support Programs** offers Supplemental Instruction, tutoring, and mentoring to any student who would thrive from an additional resource and perspective in an area of study. Many students use this aid to keep on top of all their academic studies. Remember: Academic Support – it’s what good students do!

*Most students who use Tutoring will earn a B or better in their course.*

*Average GPA of students who use Supplemental Instruction: 3.2. Average GPA of students who don’t use Supplemental Instruction: 2.7.*

**Students with Disabilities:** If students have not applied for accommodations through [OALA](#), it is critical that they do so now.

**Building a Profile for the Future:** Students should begin building a profile of experiences connected to their academic interests to present to a potential employer or graduate / professional school. Encourage students to explore Academic Excellence Opportunities such as [Study Abroad](#), [Undergraduate Research](#), or an [internship](#) to enrich their educational experience. This is also a great time for students to get connected with [Career and Professional Development](#), setting themselves up to find the major that is best suited to their interests and strengths while discerning and exploring the vocational / career trajectory for a successful launch upon graduation. Students can also connect with the office of [Community Engagement and Services](#) to learn more about ways to get involved in the local community.

**Library Assistance and Study Spots:** [The Baylor Libraries](#) offer research resources, comfortable learning spaces, and helpful assistance. The Central Libraries (Moody & Jones) house the general collection and serve as home to our Garden Level Study Commons, a flexible technology-rich learning environment for individual or group study, and the Prichard Quiet Study Commons offers a 24-hour quiet study environment. The other libraries: the W. R. Poage Legislative Library, the Armstrong Browning Library, the Keston Center, and The Texas Collection, house specialized research collections and archives that serve a variety of disciplines. Moody Starbucks provides food as well as a comfortable space for both individual study and group meetings. Be sure to tell students to visit each of the Baylor Libraries early in their Baylor careers and learn what each has to offer to their academic success. Encourage your students to check out the Baylor website and to follow
Baylor Libraries on Facebook and Twitter. Please distribute the Study Spots cards this week to give students ideas of spots on campus where they might like to study. Remind them that their first round of exams are coming up, and they should start studying now rather than waiting until the day before.

**Writing Help:** The Writing Center can help students with any writing assignment for any class. They have tutors ready to discuss a student’s work with them while they are brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising. They are available by appointment or walk-in, Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. They are located in Carroll Science G-06 and can be reached at (254) 710-4849.

The link to the NSE website is (http://www.baylor.edu/nse/.)