I Want to Connect with As Many of My Students as Possible: What Should I Keep In Mind?

Academic Outreach and Innovation’s Faculty-Led Workshops (FLWs)
Simple changes to make a big impact

Gunjan Gakhar, Ph.D.
Instructor in Biology
Washington State University Vancouver
I Want to Connect with As Many of My Students as Possible: What Should I Keep In Mind?

• What are the different types of connections?
• How do I make them and sustain them?
• Impactful strategies and methods of implementation that the faculty can incorporate in their classroom management immediately
Do you think being connected to an instructor enhances learning?

Yes. Absolutely.

Overall Median Rating of the Instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>G. Gakhar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>Biol 111</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>MBios 306</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>MBios 440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>MBios 304</td>
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<td>Biol 354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>Biol 111</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*4.0 being the highest rating. Online data unavailable for other semesters/years
MBios 440, Immunology, Spring 2019

• GG is a phenomenal professor, in fact, the most effective professor I have had in my undergraduate career. She is intentional, precise, knowledgeable, and fair.

• She can effectively and efficiently teach immunology by simplifying complex pathways or concepts in a visual way. This was one of my favorite classes in undergrad, despite the challenging nature of the subject.

Biol 354, Human Anatomy, Fall 2018

• Honestly cares about her students and how they are doing. Goes out of her way to say good luck before exams and the breathing exercises were really helpful.

• She also did great in making it so that she taught the material and made class fun. I was really really really happy to be in her class and she made our lab feel like family. Everyone who wasn't in her lab was really jealous.
MBios 305 General Microbiology, Fall 2019
• GG was the favorite thing about this course. Her enthusiasm for teaching, her respect for her students, and her passion for microbiology really made the class enjoyable. I really hope she continues to teach Micro.

MBios 304, Microbiology and Molecular Biology laboratory, Fall 2019
• The environment of the class. GG, made every student feel heard and continually encouraged us and checked in when things seemed off. I was confident in my grade because I knew that GG would answer any of my questions and created a space so that anyone felt comfortable to ask questions.
Questions Asked to Students

Q1. What are the different strategies/ways used by an instructor that makes you feel connected to an instructor?

Q2. What are the different strategies/ways used by an instructor that makes you feel disconnected to an instructor?
Ways by which Students Feel *Connected* to the Instructor

- Instructor asking questions during the class without using names
- Instructor admitting that certain concepts are difficult to comprehend
- Instructor giving space to the students to interact with each other via SGD
- Instructor approaching students before the class and interacting with them
- Instructor asking for feedback
- Instructor using personal experiences relating to material
- Instructor learning names of the students
- Instructor showing empathy
- Instructor adapting the course based on student feedback
Ways by which students feel *disconnected* to the instructor

- Instructor not understanding students
- Instructor not giving time to copy slides in the lecture
- Instructor making things more complex than they need be
- Instructor not addressing student concerns
- Instructor going fast in lectures
- Instructor starting the lecture as the class starts without asking students' well-being
- Instructor reading from slides
- Instructor asking for note-taking
- Instructor talking without giving breaks
Self Reflection

• Not understanding their students
• Admitting certain concepts are difficult
• Learning students’ names
• Not addressing student concerns
• Not giving time to copy from slides

• Showing empathy
• Going fast in lectures
• Adapting course based on student needs
• Asking for feedback
Ways by which students feel connected to instructors in an *online environment*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Connection Methods</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackboard</td>
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<td>Multiple Methods</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</table>
Ways by which students feel connected to instructors in an online environment (Cont.)

Zoom

- Small group discussions using breakout rooms
- Working through this together
- Polling function allows knowing *how students are doing*
- Interactive lectures
- More connected; feels one-on-one interaction
- Chat function allows every student to ask questions
More ways students feel connected to instructors in an online environment

**Emails**
- Answering queries
- Faster replies

**Blackboard**
- Posting updates
- Frequent reminders