

Tips that Facilitate Student Learning

Many teaching strategies that assist students with disabilities are known to also benefit nondisabled students. Instruction that is provided in an array of approaches will reach more students than instruction using one method. The following are teaching strategies that will benefit students in the academic setting.

Required text

- ❖ Select a text with a study guide,
Order textbooks as early as possible in consideration of students who require audio-format of text. (N.B. It takes several weeks to process orders through Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic or to obtain a text file from the publisher)

On the syllabi

- ❖ Include a statement that students need to inform faculty members of their special needs, as soon as possible, assure that those needs are met in a timely manner.

Sample Syllabi Statement:

In compliance with St John Fisher College policy and applicable laws, appropriate academic accommodations are available to you if you are a student with a disability. All requests for accommodations must be supported by appropriate documentation/diagnosis and determined reasonable by St. John Fisher College. Students with documented disabilities (physical, learning and psychological) who may need academic accommodations are advised to make an appointment with the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Office of Academic Affairs, K-202. Late notification will delay requested accommodations.

Before the lecture

- ❖ Write key terms or an outline on the board, or prepare a lecture handout
- ❖ Create study guides

- ❖ Assign advance readings before the topic is due in the class session
- ❖ Give students questions that they should be able to answer by the end of each lecture

During the lecture

- ❖ Briefly review the previous lecture
- ❖ Use visual aids, such as overheads, diagrams, charts, graphs
- ❖ Allow the use of tape recorders
- ❖ Emphasize important points, main ideas, key concepts
- ❖ Face the class when speaking
- ❖ Explain technical language, terminology
- ❖ Speak distinctly and at a relaxed rate, pausing to allow students time for note taking
- ❖ Leave time for questions periodically
- ❖ Administer frequent quizzes to provide feedback for students
- ❖ Give assignments in writing as well as orally

Grading and evaluation

- ❖ Consider a variant grading system with multiple grades for various tasks weighted differently
- ❖ Permit examinations to be held in a separate location, or done on a word processor
- ❖ Allow extra time (not unlimited) for the completion of the examinations. Increase the frequency of exams or quizzes. Use of alternative methods to demonstrate course mastery