Connecting Students

It has been a challenging year for our students, and many are eager to connect with campus and each other. Consider ways you can help your students connect with campus resources, and with their fellow students:

1. Teach students about academic resources: all of our tutoring resources are on campus. Check out the Writing Center, the North Assistance Center, Maag Library, and the Center for Student Progress, all of which have a proctoring tool.

2. Let students know there is help for their physical and mental health. YSU offers on-campus counseling as well as online support for students, but they may not know the services available to them. Ask students to raise their hand if they feel they need help.

3. Encourage students to use the YSU app: this app isn’t just for scanning into their class—they can access Blackboard, their ICard, all student and academic services, as well as events and student organizations. There is also a social media platform for students to connect with each other.

4. Make students aware of technology tools: let students know that they can use all of the YSU collaborative tools for free. There are links for student guides to Blackboard, Microsoft Teams, Onedrive, and the YSU app.

Many more ideas are available on the Student Support and Connecting Students page!

Academic Integrity

With exams coming up in the next few weeks, some of you may be considering how to maintain academic integrity in your assignments, particularly in hybrid or online environments. Consider these three basic approaches to supporting academic integrity:

1. Virtue-integrated: encourage students to strive for excellence and integrity. Guide them to:
   - Focus on higher order skills in assignments and exams.
   - Redefine professional ethics and career.
   - Prevents students from signing up for something they’re not interested in.

2. Prevention: offer opportunities for students to connect. Good practices include:
   - Ensure student understanding of the Code of Conduct.
   - Require students to take and practice new assignments.
   - Give students a social media platform for students to connect with each other.

3. Restorative: work with students who have already cheated.
   - Material: mean security by using a proctoring tool (see below).
   - Set time for breaks or workspaces, in Blackboard.
   - Report on cheating.

YSU’s Proctoring Tool—Respondus

YSU’s Office of Cyberlearning offers the Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor to proctor tests in the hybrid and online environments. This tool is already integrated with Blackboard and is easy to use. You may wish to register for a free instructor training webinar to learn how you can use this tool with your students. Find out more on the ACT Technology Guides page. Note that Respondus does not work with Chromebooks, so if a student only has access to this type of computer please contact our Client Care team.

Visit the ACT resources on Maintaining Academic Integrity for more information on good practices and technology tool guides, including a video that demonstrates SafeAssign and Respondus.

More info is available on the ACT Consults page!

ACT Consults

Please remember that all ACT members are available to consult with faculty on helping a distressed student. They may not know the services available to them. Also check out this website for Student Progress and Academic Integrity.

More info is available on the ACT Consults page!

The Academic Continuity Team (ACT) is a collaborative of faculty and staff from the Institute for Teaching and Learning, Office of Cyberlearning, and Information Technology Customer Services. Our offices have been working together since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide continuous service, provide training and resources, and support faculty teaching. Visit our website for resources, training opportunities, or to contact an ACT member.

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