

7 Quick Strategies to Improve Responses to Your Students

1. Acknowledge Contributions

Gratitude and praise reinforce student behaviors

Ask them to:

- Expand on their contribution
- Clarify their position
- Connect their response to others

2. Suggest Resources

Provide clear and concise instructions to help students find the information they seek.

3. Respond With Care

Engage with empathy. A short response may be easy, but it's not always effective. Promote faculty-student connection by listening and acknowledging what is being shared.

4. Use a Designated Course Questions Thread

Use a dedicated course questions thread to help students with common questions and responses. Often, if one student has a question, others may have it as well.

5. Use Announcements

Announce your availability to students. As your schedule changes, let your students know and remind them that you are eager to interact.

6. Check Messages & all New Post

Students often post questions as messages or post. Thus, check all unread messages and student post frequently and respond in a timely manner.

7. Host Office Hours

Hosting office hours is a great way to discuss course content, respond to questions, and share resources with your students.