

Stand Out as a Student

How to Connect with your Instructors



Make Participation a Priority: Demonstrate interest in the subject matter by being attentive and having a positive attitude. Make a point to participate by raising your hand once in a while. Give thoughtful answers to questions, ask questions when you need clarification, and probe into the topics you will be learning during the semester.



Introduce Yourself After Class: Walk up to your instructor OR send an email after class and say, "Hello, I'm _____. I want to introduce myself and tell you I had a great time listening to your lecture today. I am excited to learn more about..."



Go to Office Hours: It is important to set yourself apart, especially in large classes. Instructors have many students and they may not recognize everyone. Attending office hours is a good way to get one-on-one interaction with your instructor. Be prepared ahead of the visit with questions on assignments, upcoming tests, or guidance in your professional career.



Ask for Professional Advice: Inquire about their career path and what got them to the point they're at now. Seek their guidance around what you can be actively doing to figure out what your goals are and help you reach them. You can even take it a step further and ask them to be a mentor, which can be beneficial while you're at school and also when embarking on your career.



Stay in Touch: Just like any professional contact, you should stay in touch with your instructor(s). They oftentimes have a network of friends and prospective employers. Also, employers may want to tap the instructor's student network for interns and new hires. They will never recommend a student they don't know!