

# Strategies to Improve Student Learning

There is increasing evidence that students learn most effectively when:

- They understand course and program goals and the characteristics of excellent work.
- They are academically challenged and encouraged to focus on developing higher-order thinking skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving, as well as discipline-specific knowledge.
- They spend more time actively involved in learning and less time listening to lectures.
- They engage in multidimensional “real world” tasks.
- Their learning styles are accommodated.
- They have positive interactions with faculty and work collaboratively with fellow students; all learners—students and professors—respect and value others as learners.
- They participate in out-of-class activities, such as co-curricular activities and service learning opportunities, that build on what they are learning in the classroom.
- Assignments and assessments are intertwined with learning activities and focus on the most important course and program goals.
- They have opportunities to revise their work.
- They reflect on what and how they have learned.
- They have a culminating “capstone” experience, such as a seminar, internship, independent study, research project, or thesis, that lets them synthesize what they have learned over the course of their college experience.

## **Sources:**

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