PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Six Conditions that Matter to Student Success
- “Living” Mission and “Lived” Educational Philosophy
- Unshakable Focus on Student Learning
- Environments Adapted for Educational Enrichment
- Clear Pathways to Student Success
- Improvement-Oriented Ethos
- Shared Responsibility for Educational Quality and Student Success

What Students Can Do
- Be present and attentive in class
- Be prepared for each class, as well as for university life
- Participate in class and in extra- and co-curricular activities
- Be polite to everyone in the academic community and respectful of their peers, their professors, themselves, and the process of education
- Engage in Scholarship
- Take every Opportunity to learn
- Expect high Achievement of themselves
- Take Responsibility for learning

What Faculty Members Can Do
- “Celebrate” students and their learning
- Set and maintain high expectations for student performance
- Clarify what students need to do to succeed
- Use engaging pedagogical approaches appropriate for course objectives and students’ abilities and learning styles
- Build on students’ knowledge, abilities, and talents
- Provide meaningful feedback to students
- Weave diversity into the curriculum, including out-of-class assignments
- Make time for students
- Hold students accountable for taking their share of the responsibility for their learning

What Student Affairs Can Do
- Focus on the educational mission
- Create and sustain partnerships for learning
- Hold all students to high expectations for engagement and learning, in and out of class, on and off campus
- Implement a comprehensive system of safety nets and early warning systems
- Teach new students what it takes to succeed
- Recognize, affirm, and celebrate the educational value of diversity
- Invest in programs and people that demonstrate contributions to student learning and success
- Create spaces for learning
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What Campus Leaders Can Do

✓ Confirm that student success is everybody’s business, that we are all committed to student learning and student success
✓ Recruit for new hires faculty who are committed to student learning and student success for new hires
✓ Feature student success in the institution’s mission and vision statements
✓ Frequently remind colleagues of the institution’s commitment to enhancing the quality of the undergraduate experience
✓ Scale up policies, programs, and practices that work
✓ Cultivate of ethic of continuous improvement by every member of the campus community
✓ Put someone in charge
✓ Create “space” for differences
✓ Stay the course

Sources:

The points under “What Students Can Do” are drawn from Fairmont State University’s Strategic Plan and from the expectations that we have set for our students.


“Six Conditions that Matter to Student Success” appears on the cover page of each of the Occasional Papers cited above. The points under the headings “What Faculty Members Can Do,” “What Student Affairs Can Do,” and “What Campus Leaders Can Do” are drawn largely, though not necessarily verbatim, from the section headings in the Kinzie, Whitt, and Kuh papers.