

Centre for Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Teaching and Learning has as its mission to support and promote teaching and learning excellence, innovation, and scholarship at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning serves all faculties and schools at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The Centre also provides support for graduate students/teaching assistants, post-doctoral fellows/scholars, and sessional/adjunct faculty.



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2017

Learning Students' Names



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Teaching and Learning



Learning Students' Names

Many professors find that learning student names helps create a sense of community and trust in a class. Students perceive a professor who learns their names as approachable and inclusive. Even if not all names are known and used in a large class, it gives the impression that the professor cares, and the interactions are perceived to be more personal and engaging.

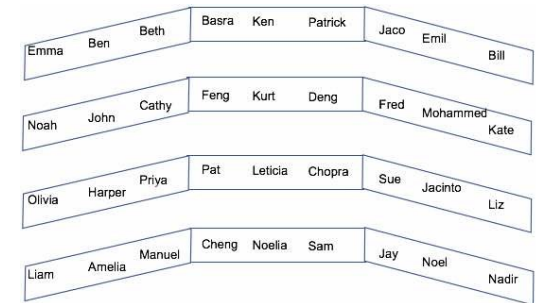
Name learning techniques:

- Have students fold a sheet of paper in half lengthwise twice, write their name on both sides of it and bring it to every class.

Amelia

- Read the class roster several times before class. Visualize each student as you can and annotate a feature about them that stands out to you.
- Obtain a class list with thumbnail photos from the Faculty Service Centre (FSC) website.
- Use student names every chance you have. Ask them to correct you if you are wrong. It's okay to ask them to remind you of their name when you call on them. "Ok, John, what did you find?"
- Arrange frequent, small group activities throughout the course. Circulate, interact with students, and match names with faces. Group activities help students learn each others' names, too.
- Arrange an ice breaker activity such as having students create a 'passport' which includes a photo of themselves and some interesting fact from their life or their aspirations.
- Arrange an ice breaker activity where students introduce several of their peers to you and ask them how they remember the names.

- Draft a rough seating chart and place it in front of you in class. Many students sit in the same seats in the first few classes. In large classes, you can ask them to try to sit in the same place.



Remember, it is your effort that shows your interest and care.

To learn more how you can learn students' names, contact CTL (ctl.helpdesk@ubc.ca).

