

“Teaching by the (Baker’s) Dozen”

A - Assessment and Accountability

Hold students accountable with regular and frequent graded items. Learn everyone’s name quickly. Return student work promptly. Don’t wait until the end of the semester to get feedback from students.

B- Blended Learning; Bias

Use a variety of methods and activities on a daily basis. Never assume the worst!

C- Communication, Clarity and Consistency

Ask your colleagues for advice, departmental customs, syllabi. Talk to your students. Visit with them before class begins! Be clear and consistent about your expectations. Set up a rhythm that students come to expect.

D- Decode your students

Some students have great test scores but little work ethic, others have a great work ethic but very poor preparation for college-level work. Some students lack basic confidence while some are too confident. Each student needs to be decoded, which is possible with our class sizes.

E - Experiment and Excite

Try new ideas. Have your students move around. You love the material, get your students excited. Tell the story!

F- Fun, Firm and Fair

Share your passion but be firm. Set realistic deadlines and stick with them. Don’t add new requirements in week 12! No extra credit unless you are willing to give everyone the same opportunity! Make it fun for your students and you! Don’t be afraid to smile.

H- Honesty and Humility

Be honest with students about your knowledge level. It is better to humbly say “I don’t know” to a perplexing question than to bumble through a contrived answer. Students admire the honesty and identify with the fallibility, making them more likely to be honest with you in return. Just be sure to find them the answer for next class!

O - Objectives; Organized

Tell the students what you plan to teach them each day – daily agenda – and each week. Organize the class and your online material- use color and Kodiak folders!

P- Patience and Partnerships

Get a Ph.D. in patience. Accept the fact that your students have multiple responsibilities. Partner with other colleagues and the Academic Support Center.

Q - Questions

Always leave time for questions. Create ways for students to ask questions “anonymously”.

R- Respect, Repeat and Reach

Communicate respect – often this happens with your non-verbals. Don't be afraid to repeat yourself. In fact, you must repeat yourself! Start each class with a very quick review of the last class. Offer stretch opportunities for students who wish to go further.

S- Shoes and Share

Put yourself in the students' shoes. How would the course look, sound and feel from their perspective? Put the material in context for them. Share your own experiences.

T- Together and Theme

View the course from a “we are all in this together” perspective. The instructor is in charge, but no power plays! Be theme based and hammer home those themes.