

Arts and Humanities Commitment to Student Growth and Development

This community is about learning and citizenship, responsibility and accountability, engagement with the world, and the maturing development of the self. Bellevue College is dedicated solely to the education of our students. In every aspect of their experience, we seek to provide students the opportunities, challenges, and support to prepare themselves for a life of personal success, engaged citizenship, and enjoyment of the world.

The community of a campus establishes a context for learning. It allows us to provide students a total liberal arts education that will help them develop the creative and critical thinking skills needed to become resilient, independent, and self-sufficient adults.

Problem solving is a key feature of any meaningful educational experience.

When allowed to work through the problems, students have opportunities to learn important skills of communication (e.g. how to voice a view and actively hear a different view), team work (e.g. working with others to identify problems, creatively develop solutions, and locate resources to implement ideas), and working across difference in a local and global context (how to work with those who are different than themselves, how to turn difference into a creative plus).

This means we allow students to struggle with problems and grope for answers. We strive not to "fix" things for students, thus depriving them of the valuable learning that comes of adversity. Instead, we will help them learn to use the extensive network of people and resources to solve problems for themselves. We think about this as "coaching" students.

We invite you, the student, to take an active role in this process and become adept at problem solving during your study at BC. We encourage you to partner with us in the following ways:

- Ask questions when you don't understand or need assistance. Don't assume instructors, staff or administrators know or will give the answers to unasked questions.
- Identify and use available resources (e.g. faculty, advisors, library), avoid requesting or allowing someone else to contact these resources for you.
- Understand that process is crucial in an educational environment. The quick fix often blunts the learning. Most often students benefit from developing strategies for accomplishing goals while outside of comfort zones. Learn to negotiate difference and to manage conflict.

Here's what we will do to assist you in this process.

- We will make every college resource available to you to see that you meet the challenges of higher education and succeed to the best of your ability.
- We will address any question you might have about your work at BC with the intention of providing you the best response that the circumstances permit.
- We will discourage third parties (parents, spouses, friends) from slowing your growth and progress by responding only to direct inquiries from you, the student. We do this because we are committed to student self-advocacy and independence. We also do it because

federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) mandates that we protect the privacy of student education records, and BC policy mandates that we keep academic performance as a matter between the institution and the student. Requests by students to include third parties in any instructor-student discussion of academic performance will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor.

- We will work together with you and the Office of the Disability Resource Center (DRC), where appropriate, to make your college experience successful.

As you begin this exciting time, we encourage you to think about the type of educational experience you hope takes place over the next few years. We hope you share our vision of the possibilities: that each of our graduates will be well-prepared to be active, engaged, and capable of making a difference in the world.

That goal is best achieved when students make this education their own. It is also best achieved when we are comfortable allowing students to make mistakes, to struggle through issues, and to have the range of experiences needed to develop the skills, values, and habits of resilient, independent, and self-sufficient adults.