

General Advice for Handling Difficult Behaviors in the Classroom

A CELT Teaching Tip

1. Read Part 1B of IPFW's Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. http://bulletin.ipfw.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=232#part_I
2. Explain your behavioral expectations on the first day of class, including class decorum, how discussions will be handled, and so on. You should make reference to the Code.
3. If students compare you with other teachers, ask them to be specific about their criticisms. This is best done privately. You do not have to justify your pedagogy to students.
4. Watch students enter your classroom to observe the dynamics among them.
5. Always model the type of behavior you expect from your students.
6. Be proactive. Address negative behaviors and attitudes as soon as they arise.
6. Ask your chair or a colleague to your class. This changes the dynamics of the classroom and allows a fresh perspective on what's going on. You may also ask a CELT Teaching Fellow for assistance.
7. If a student repeatedly engages in disruptive behavior, you can ask the student to leave the classroom. You may not, however, bar the student from attending future class sessions.

The Dean of Students offers six steps to follow in dealing with disruptive behavior in its brochure "Guidelines for Dealing with Difficult Students", available by calling the Dean of Students. The office of the Dean of Students can also advise you as to when and how to initiate disciplinary proceedings.

Campus Resources

Student Assistance Program, Walb 210, 373-8060 or 800-721-8809 (Up to six counseling sessions per year offered free.) <http://www.ipfw.edu/dos/counseling/personal.shtml>

Dean of Students Walb 111, 481-6601 <http://www.ipfw.edu/dos/>

Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Kettler 172, 481-6844 <http://www.ipfw.edu/vesa/>

Police and Safety, Support Services 102, 481-6827 <http://www.ipfw.edu/police/>

EMERGENCIES 481-6911