

Connecting with your teacher

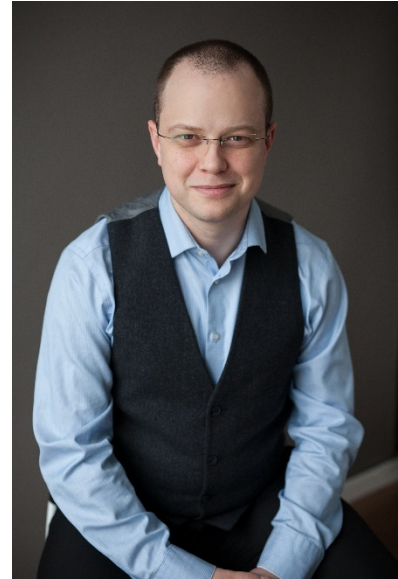
Nervous about heading back to school? Set yourself up for success by getting to know your teachers.

Students will get the most out of their education by getting to know their teachers and what those teachers identify as important in their courses. Developing good relationships with teachers involves good communication inside and outside of class times.

“I love it when my students speak with me individually,” said Dr. David P. Burns, an educational studies instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). “If I know a bit about my students I can think of ways to spark a new passion, or encourage an existing one.”

Students can show their interest in course material through active listening in class, reading course material and textbooks beforehand and coming to class prepared, and asking questions during class.

KPU instructors and most university professors keep office hours outside of class. Students can use office hours to ask questions about the course material, to get clarification about the requirements for an assignment, or to learn more about a topic from the class that they find particularly interesting. A tip for using office hours effectively: arrive on time to be respectful of your instructor’s and other students’ time, and come prepared with questions.



Dr. David P. Burns

Email is another popular way to ask instructors questions outside of class. However, instructors often receive many emails from students so it’s important to allow time for them to respond and not expect an instant reply. Keep the email brief and clear, and in the subject line write the course name and topic of your email.

By simply reaching out and being respectful of their teachers’ time, students will be well on their way to building a good relationship, which in turn further supports their learning.

For more helpful tips and tricks for going back to school, visit KPU’s Learning Centre kpu.ca/learningcentres/learning-aids.

About Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Kwantlen Polytechnic University has served the Metro Vancouver region since 1981, and has opened doors to success for more than 200,000 learners. Four campuses—Richmond, Surrey, Cloverdale and Langley—offer a comprehensive range of sought-after programs in business, liberal arts, design, health, science and horticulture, trades and technology, and academic and career advancement. Over 19,000 students annually have a choice from over 120 programs, including bachelor’s degrees, associate degrees, diplomas, certificates, citations and apprenticeships. Learn more at kpu.ca.

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