

What does it mean to be Student-Centered?

(List compiled through the Professional Learning/Mentoring Session on being Student-Centered. Additional items added to the list from Gavilan faculty and staff)

- It is when teachers and students become fellow collaborators of learning. This may include designing together (designing assessments and quizzes).
- It is about positioning students to become teachers (having them facilitate seminars, give presentations, share their own experiences with others, etc.)
- It is where students are active contributors to their learning: not merely passive learners: receiving information, memorizing it, and repeating it.
- It is adult-centered where students have choices--have some control of their own learning.
- It is where students are encouraged and given space to be a resource for one another in the class.
- It is where students are encouraged to bring/share their own experiences in the classroom.
- It is about creating a space where we anticipate and learn about student needs and help to familiarize them with campus resources.
- It is giving students the time and space to process what they are learning and how they are learning it.
- It is about giving students time and space to question and discuss what they are learning.
- It is about closely listening to students. It is about inviting in participation and feedback to help us better meet their needs.
- It is about creating a space where students are encouraged to make their thinking visible.
- It is about trying to understand our students and their learning environments.
- It is when students, and student's cultural backgrounds, are treated with respect and dignity.
- It is when instructors recognize that they are still students as well, just further along in the process
- It is about anticipating and building upon the experiences and knowledge students bring with them to the classroom.
- It is about establishing a relationship that is grounded in trust, mutual respect, and authentic care (relational vs. transactional interactions: making students feel that they matter).
- It is about having a holistic concern for students' well-being.
- It is about validating students' lived experiences both inside and outside of the classroom and having compassion.
- It is about being aware of and intentionally sharing campus and community resources.
- It is about taking time to understand students' accommodations.
- It is recognizing the strengths of our students. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that we can learn from as well.