

Faculty Matter Tip #26: Helping students to make – and act on – plans for next semester

Yes, Fall semester is still in full swing, but it is also “**registration season**” for Spring. Many students have a clear idea of the classes they need or want to take, but others could benefit from some guidance. The purpose of this Tip is to **help you identify ways you might help in this process**:

In some aspects, registering for classes for up-coming semesters is a fairly technical matter: Students need to know what they must take to continue making progress toward their degree, and they must follow the university’s registration processes. In other aspects, *registering for classes presents a wonderful opportunity for students to reflect upon what they are learning and what they want to know more about as they prepare for life “after SJSU.”* Below are listed things YOU can do to assist them with both of these objectives:

1. Remind your students to be aware of – and meet – any and all **deadlines** that apply to them. Plain and simple.
2. Encourage them to **confirm** the courses they plan to select. Policies and practices for doing this vary significantly from one department to another, and from one college to another. They can schedule time with an advisor. They can also use the various resources that comprise the [MyGPS](#) suite of technology tools.
3. **Consider spending part of a class meeting** having students discuss classes are planning to take – as a whole class, or in smaller group format. You may be able to weave this into topics you are covering. Inform yourself about offerings that might build nicely on material you will have covered this semester. Encourage students to do a bit of research in preparation for this conversation. Word of caution: have students run through their plans with an advisor, to make sure the courses they plan to register for will move them toward graduation.
4. Remind your students about the [Coffee with a Professor](#) program. Students are eligible for up to two Gold Points cards per semester, which they can use to invite a professor to coffee at any eatery on campus. These opportunities for one-on-one conversation can support students with the perspective and encouragement that will help them plan for next semester and beyond. **If you have the bandwidth and the interest**, consider announcing the program (again) in class, and making yourself available to your students.

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Please **add your own strategies using the comment link** on the [Provost’s Academic Spotlight blog under the category “Faculty Matter”](#).