The Student-Faculty Relationship
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A brief agenda

• The student-teacher relationship
• Academic expectations
• Some university supports
• Some advice for parents
• Questions and responses
Student-teacher relationship

- As distinguished from high school:
  - A combination of classroom exchanges, assignments, mentoring, and extra-curriculars
  - Ongoing mentorship across semesters as students grow; community building within departments

- Multiple faculty roles:
  - Teachers, scholars / artists, community members

- By design, we are busy but available:
  - academic advising, office hours, research partnerships
Academic expectations

• Excellence, excellence, excellence!
• Pre-class preparation is key
• Approximately two hours of study for each hour in class – college is a full-time (plus) job
• Transition from consumers of knowledge to producers of knowledge
• Competently and creatively challenging authority – question everything
Academic expectations

• Some of the biggest challenges for students:
  – Active reading: note taking, textual criticism
  – Learning to ask, “Why do we pose the question this way?”
  – Using office hours effectively
  – Responding to written feedback
  – Making time for high-impact extra-curricular activities (summers, internships, spring breaks)
  – Developing the courage to pursue lofty goals

• Again, train to smartly question authority
Some of our supports

• Chandra Shipley’s advising center
• Writing center
• Library faculty
• Dean of students
• Counseling services
• Career center
• Department tutors and student workers
• First-year and ongoing advising w/ faculty
Some advice

• This will be a time of lots of decisions
  – Moving from a highly structured to a less structured environment
  – The best help from parents probably comes in the form of probing questions
  – Try not to panic when daughters and sons change majors (med-school? maybe not)

• Creating a safe place for experiential learning, including occasionally falling down (and learning how to get back up)