Class Attendance

Students’ class attendance should be of utmost concern for both new and experienced teachers, and research shows that there is a direct correlation between class attendance and academic success. Here are some strategies to help you improve class attendance:

• Take attendance to send a strong message to students that attendance is important.
  o Consider using a Clicker for this if your class is too large.
• Keep students engaged.
  o Make sure that students recognize the need for being there by making what happens in class seem important to them.
• Provide a positive award for attendance rather than punishing absences.
  o Highlights the connection between appropriate actions and good grades.
  o Makes students’ responsibility for their grades more explicit.
  o Possible strategies for this might be
    ▪ Giving points for attendance
    ▪ Giving points for participation
    ▪ Administering regular quizzes
      • One-Minute Test
      • Muddiest Point Exercise
• Respond promptly to students’ absences.
  o Call or email truant students, or speak to them after a class they do attend.
  o A more proactive approach helps to prevent the problem before it gets started.