



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE:
CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR STAFF

The following questions may serve as conversation starters to help you identify student interests primarily in **on-campus engagement**, but also discuss their concerns and find ways to assist them.

FIRST MEETING

First-Year Student

- Tell me a about you.
 - What are your strengths?
- What are you most looking forward to in college?
- What are you most worried about as you begin college?
- What student organizations or activities did you participate in while you were in high school? *If none, ask if they have any hobbies.*
- What field are you pursuing?
 - What made you decide on pursuing a degree in that field?
 - What do you plan to do after you graduate?
- What are your goals for this semester?
 - Do you plan to join a student organization?
 - Are you looking for part-time work?
- How was new student orientation?
 - Is there anything that was not very clear? I may be able to help.
- How can I help you during this transition into college?
- Let them know about upcoming events such as Miner Welcome, on-campus employment fairs, etc.*

Transfer Student

- What was your experience like at your former institution?
- What have you learned about yourself since you started college?
- What personal strengths have helped you get to this point?
- Were you part of any student organizations at your former institution?
 - Are you interested in joining a student organization at UTEP?
- What are you most excited about this semester?
- How do you plan to meet other students?
- Are you currently working or planning to look for employment?
- How have you achieved balance between work, school, and family responsibilities?
- What are your goals for this semester?
- What are your concerns regarding your first semester at UTEP?
- Do you have any questions about how your courses transferred in and applied towards your degree?
- What questions do you have about your major?
- How was student orientation?
 - Is there anything that was not very clear? I may be able to help.

- How can I help you during this transition into college?
- Is there any information that I can help you find that you have had trouble locating?
- Let them know about upcoming events such as Miner Welcome, on-campus employment fairs, etc.*

Veteran/Active Military Student

- How long did you serve?
- What did you do (in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Guard, or Reserves)?
- Why did you choose that branch?
- Do you come from a military family?
- Did you visit any other countries?
- Where was your favorite place you lived?
- What strengths have you discovered you have and have helped you be successful in your work?
- What do you do outside of work? Do you play any sports? Do you have any hobbies?
- If veteran. Are you currently working or planning to look for employment? Let them know about on-campus employment.*
- What are you most excited about this semester? What excites you the most about being a college student?
- What are your goals for this semester?
- How was student orientation?
 - Is there anything that was not very clear? I may be able to help.
- What questions do you have about your major?
- What are your concerns regarding your first semester?
- What external responsibilities do you have to balance with your studies?
- How can I help you during this transition into college?
- Is there any information that I can help you find that you have had trouble locating?
- Let them know about upcoming events such as Miner Welcome, on-campus employment fairs, etc.*

SECOND MEETING

All Students, Mid-Semester

- How are your courses going so far?
 - What is your favorite course?
 - Do you have any concerns about your courses?
- What goals for the first semester have you achieved and which ones are you working on?
- What has been the most positive and most difficult part of your transition to college?
- Do you feel connected to the campus community?
- What kinds of new connections and friends have you made so far?
- Have you discovered anything new about yourself?
 - Strengths you didn't know you had
 - New interests
- Have you met with any of your professors during their office hours?
- Have you spoken to your professors about study abroad or study away opportunities?

- How are you spending your time outside of the classroom?
- Do you have any concerns about your major?
- Are you interested in finding an internship or research opportunity?
- How have your goals changed since the beginning of the semester?
- What are your plans for next semester, including courses, employment/internships, etc.?