



ACUE

Student Success
Through Exceptional
Teaching

Use Community-Building Ice-Breakers

Narrator [00:00:09] To build a sense of community, greet students as they enter and start to learn their names. An academic icebreaker can help students get to know each other and introduce the course. For example, give a short, no-stakes quiz on popular topics that the course covers. After students work individually for a few minutes, organize them into small groups, have them introduce themselves and discuss their responses to the work, then review the correct answers with the whole class to connect their current knowledge or misconceptions to material you'll cover in the term.

Narrator [00:00:42] Another way to build community is to welcome questions tangibly. From day one and onward, arrive with a stack of Post-it Notes for students to write questions that come to mind. Notes can be posted anonymously to a designated wall collected for class discussions or as students leave for the day. Regardless of the method, be sure to use the notes as a diagnostic to learn what students might be grappling with and discuss reoccurring questions the next time you meet.