Exploratory Questions to Ask During First Interview

- Describe your high school experience to me? How did you do academically last year/high school? Last semester?
- Are you living on residence? At home with family? In a home with roommates? How many roommates?
- Have you ever been involved in extracurricular activities? If yes-when and what?
- Are you planning to or do you presently work during college? How many hours per week?
- What is your support system (i.e. family, friends, and colleagues)?
- What interested you about this program? Why did you apply?
- Is this your first program choice?
- Is this your first experience with post-secondary education?
- What do you expect from teachers?
- How much time do you think you will need and spend on school work outside of class time?
- Did you take time between high school and college? If so, what did you do? i.e. did you work? Did you travel?
- What are some of your career aspirations?
- Did you work in your program related industry?
- Do you have friends here at Algonquin College? What programs are they in?
- Do you feel prepared for college? Did you do anything specific to make sure you were ready?
- Did you have the opportunity to plan financially for college?

A first interview is a perfect time to assess whether a student is potentially at risk of disengagement or failure. Certain student characteristics are “red flags” regardless of program: living away from home for the first time, ending up in a program that was not the first choice, juggling school while working many hours or having dependent children. Other characteristics may be program dependent (e.g. a student in Computer Studies who admits to spending a lot of time gaming). Students with a cluster of such warning signs are a good candidates for a second interview a few weeks into term.

Questions or Comments? Contact the Academic Advising Coordinator
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