

Teaching and Supporting Enabling Learners 2

Managing Student Fears

	Strategies	Some Student Comments
1	Let students know you are there to help them - eg by flagging times when you are available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At the moment, I feel a little bit awkward just because I'm only new. I know they're there to help and I know there's never such thing as a stupid question but I always worry. I have gone up to them; I feel weird putting up my hand at the moment and asking in front of everyone but I have been up to a few lecturers before and just said "Oh, just to confirm, what is this or what is that"?</i> • <i>I think for me, the biggest problem is I often feel like I'm bothering people.</i>
2	Some students fear speaking - for these students, have a dedicated space (email or blog) where students can write their concerns to you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That often scares me away from going and asking questions but I do often send an email; if I have a question, I will email because I feel like when I'm writing and when I'm reading I'm able to clarify myself better than when I'm speaking.</i> • <i>I've always preferred email and text message over phone calls because I just feel like I sort of stumble and... like even now, I'm not really coherent but if I sat down and wrote everything that I was trying to say it would come across very clearly...</i>
3	As many as 50% of enabling students consider giving up their program. Take time in your course to 'top up' student motivation by presenting data on enabling student success from your course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I think I am still dealing with obstacles. I considered leaving the program because I felt like I was drowning and not smart enough to Continue.</i> • <i>Yes I considered giving it up while writing my first essay I almost threw it in.</i> • <i>Some people have self doubt about their ability to undergo study, they might think they would not do well, but I was one of those people, and I am passing!</i>
4	Invite a student counselor to talk about managing examination stress well before the exam period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That was my fear. I am really bad at exams. My first round of exams are coming up so I'm very nervous about them.</i>