

WHAT IS A STUDENT-CENTERED INSTITUTION

Dr. J.T. (Tom) Snell

Introduction

Columbia College is a student-centered institution whose graduates are respected nationally for their high academic achievement.

Our goal is to create a rich and dynamic learning environment where all our students, both Canadian born and new Canadians, learn from each other and become successful and respected leaders in their community and fields of study.

To achieve this goal the College has taken the following key steps:

- The College's mission, philosophy, principles, and diversity statement speak to its desire to create a high quality, caring, and supportive learning environment.
- Faculty are hired based on their strong academic qualifications, professional experience in their field, and sensitivity to multicultural learners.
- Class sizes are kept much smaller than traditional colleges and universities. Our maximum class size is 36 students with an average of about 20 students.
- Faculty are expected to follow a facilitational and experiential instructional style that encourages student interaction, engagement, discussion, and problem solving that fosters greater understanding of the subject matter. At the same time faculty minimize lecturing and short term memory retention activities.
- In order to maintain higher than average results on National Board Exams, additional classes, labs, tutoring, and coaching are provided to those experiencing difficulty.
- When needed our graduates are provided with additional personal assistance in finding the employment they desire.
- Computer and simulation technology is used to enhance classroom-blended learning experience and not replace it.
- Many administrative personnel and faculty speak a variety of languages.
- We attempt to work closely with referring agencies and community leaders to better understand the needs of potential and current learners.
- A quiet space is provided for students for reflection or prayer.
- A student withdrawal rate of more than "0" percent is considered a College failure. When a student succeeds then we succeed, and if they fail then we fail, and we don't like failure.

Student-Centered Organization Chart

