**Faculty Matter Teaching Tip #9**

**Connecting your class to the bigger picture of their education and degree**

Registration is opening for students either this week or next week (based on the number of units earned, with seniors and graduate students registering first). During this time, students are considering what classes to take next semester and for the rest of their academic career.

Now is an excellent time in the semester to emphasize how your course fits into the broader sequence of courses for their degree and the professional field overall. Take some time to share with them how what they are learning now will prepare them for future courses (be specific- give them examples from classes they may be taking next semester) and also how this learning connects to the broader professional field.

This can also serve as an opportunity to get students to connect with each other and to reflect on the purpose of taking classes beyond fulfilling requirements for a degree. Have students divide up into small groups of 3-4. Ask students to introduce themselves to each other if they have not already done so. Have students discuss in their small groups:

1. How is this course connected to material you have learned in other courses?
2. What classes are you taking in the spring? What classes are you excited for? What do you hope to get out of those courses?
3. What classes do you think will be most helpful to your profession?
4. What do you think are some things beyond required classes you could be doing to strengthen your learning and preparation for your desired profession?

Note, if students have questions about academic advising, you can refer them to the [MyGPS website](https://mygps.sjsu.edu) which has technology tools for advising including course roadmaps for all degrees, [their academic advisors](https://sjsu.edu/advising), or [their college success center](https://sjsu.edu/success).