



Helping Students Stay: Exploring Program and Classroom Persistence Strategies

Course Overview and Schedule

Format: Scheduled, facilitated

Estimated Completion Time: 3-4 hours per week for 7 weeks (24 hours total)

Contact: literacy@worlded.org

Course Objectives

By the end of course, you will be able to:

- Summarize key persistence research
- Describe six drivers of persistence
- Relate the six drivers of persistence to your own personal experience
- Name the strengths and weaknesses of your own program related to each of the six drivers of persistence
- Identify at least two strategies that address each of the six drivers of persistence
- Present a persistence plan for your own program

Course Completion

To successfully complete this course, the instructor will assess your work based on whether and to what extent you have:

- ✓ Completed the required postings and assignments for each lesson: total of 80%
 - Lesson 1: 10%
 - Lesson 2: 10%
 - Lesson 3: 10%
 - Lesson 4: 20%
 - Lesson 5: 10%
 - Lesson 6: 10%
 - Lesson 7: 10%
- ✓ Completed the Persistence Profile (in Lesson 8): 10%
- ✓ Scored 12 or more points on the final project, Persistence Plan (in Lesson 8): 10%

If you score an 80% or above, you will successfully complete the course and earn a Certificate of Completion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Module 1: Getting Started

- Required Software and Course Features
- Introduction
- Course Objectives
- Course Requirements
- Planning for Learning
- Participating in the Course
- Forum: Our Experiences
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Module 2: Drivers of Persistence

- Drivers of Persistence
- Wiki: Images of Persistence
- Persistence Supports
- A Brief Review of the Research
- Forum: Assignment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Week 2

Module 3: Sense of Belonging and Community

- Sense of Belonging and Community
- Our Experiences
- Forum: Signs of Community
- Introduction
- Topic 1: The First Welcome
- Wiki: A Welcoming Environment
- Topic 2: Intake and Orientation Strategies

- Wiki: Building Upon Desires for Connection
- Topic 3: Maintaining a Sense of Community
- Wiki: Connections to Programs
- Program Self-Assessment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Week 3

Module 4: Clarity of Purpose

- Clarity of Purpose
- Forum: Our Ideas
- Introduction
- Topic 1: Articulating and Reflecting on Goals
- Topic 2: Talking About Learning

- Forum: Then I Stop Coming to School
- Preventing Problems
- Forum: Reflections
- Program Self-Assessment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Week 4

Module 5: Competence

- Competence
- Forum: Our Experiences
- Introduction
- Topic 1: Experiencing Success
- Subtopic A: Scaffold Learning and Teach Study Skills
- Subtopic B: Provide Learning Options
- Subtopic C: Help Students Self-Assess Progress

- Subtopic D: Encourage Students to Take on New Roles
- Topic 2: Relating to Role Models
- Topic 3: Receiving Encouragement
- Topic 4: Reducing Stress
- Stress Reduction Strategies
- Forum: Reflections on Competence
- Program Self-Assessment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Week 5

Module 6: Stability

- Stability
- Forum: Our Experiences
- Introduction
- Topic 1: Providing Consistent Support
- Connecting to Students
- Topic 2: Reducing Turbulence
- Take the Poll: Our Approach to Enrollment
- Managed Enrollment
- Forum: Managed Enrollment
- Setting Clear Policies
- Topic 3: Retaining Teachers
- Forum: Change Agent
- Program Self-Assessment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Week 6

Module 7: Agency and Relevance

- Agency and Relevance
- Forum: Our Experiences
- Introduction
- Topic 1: Involving Students in Decision-Making
- Offer Clear and Accessible Information
- Include Students in Decision-Making
- Forum: Student Resistance
- Topic 2: Engaging Through Real-World Activities
- Program Self-Assessment
- Forum: Questions and Observations
- Lesson Summary

Module 8: Bringing It Home

- Bringing It Home
- Step 1: Create a Program Persistence Profile and Choose a Strategy
- Forum: Persistence Profiles
- Step 2: Website Review
- Step 3: Persistence Plan
- Forum: Persistence Plans
- Forum: Questions and Observations

Module 9: Course Closure

- Course Closure
- Course Reflections
- Course Evaluation
- Certificate

Course materials are available for one month from the course end date.

This course was written by Andy Nash at World Education.