

## Getting Started / Best Practice: Welcome Your Students

Your students' first impressions will influence their opinions and attitudes about your course.

- Let students know you are glad they are here. An inviting tone—somewhat informal, but still professional—is equivalent to a smile and a greeting to a student who walks through the door in a traditional class.
- Think about how your students might feel when they enter your course for the first time. To put students at ease, include the following:
- A welcoming message and brief self-introduction
- Specific instructions on how to begin the course
- Icebreakers to build a sense of camaraderie and community