PRECISE
Best Practices

Precise Students pay attention to detail in work and communication. As teachers we ask ourselves: ***"What environment is needed for engagement?"*** and then, ***"How do we hold students accountable to high standards of correctness and accuracy without discouraging them?"***

From our experts:
Variables:
Know and understand all the variables/building blocks in your subject, then manage those variables.

Intentionality:
Be intentional. Each piece, action, word, etc. matters. Ask yourself continuously: "Why? So What? How does this connect? What is the purpose?"

Vigilance:
Outlast the students. Don't ignore or minimize error. If you see a mistake you must address it. You cannot be silent. A simple prayer: "Give me the strength to help someone"

Organization and Understanding
Repetition is necessary but is only exercising the parts. Explain the whole. Students should know the parts AND how they fit together. It is important but not good enough to simply name the parts or pieces. Name the steps in solving problems. Give students solution tools by identifying patterns and steps one takes in solving problems. Break it down. When error occurs, help students identify and name where their answer went astray

Ownership:
Students are allowed to fail and fall but they are responsible for their own feelings. They must choose to be coachable/teachable. Giving students clear limits can minimize room for mistakes and errors.

Other practices

Right is Right
1. **Hold Out for All the Way:** *Pretty good or almost right answers are still wrong answers. Seek ways to have students go further.*

2. **Answer the Question:** *When students don't know the answer, they will respond with what they DO know, even if it isn't what was asked for. Make students answer the questions that was asked.*

3. **Right Answer, Right Time:** *Students, (to please you and impress their peers) will get ahead of themselves. When sequence matters, make sure that students answer in the right sequence.*
4. **Use Technical Vocabulary:** *The vocabulary of your discipline is currency and establishes credibility in a college classroom. Model the use of the vocabulary of your discipline and expect students to do the same.*

<u>Collective wisdom</u>

Policies

Show Work…Proof….Right Answer is good but not good enough

Checklists which must be consulted

Must self-evaluate with rubric before turning in work

Proper spelling and accents required for full credit (foreign language)

Use of technical vocabulary in peer-reviews and labs

Procedures

Give instructions, then demonstrate

Summarize previous days learning at start of class period

Frequent notebook checks

Whippit:

- 1 thing you've learned
- 1 question you have

Multiple drafts required so that "first thoughts/first attempts" are not confused with complete thought

Daily agenda and objective on board or overhead so students can focus on precisely what is to be learned that day

Take time to teach art of peer review. Expect students to use technical language and hold each other accountable to higher standards.

Actions

Build in time and expectations for student preparation

Detailed rubrics

Establish clear classroom routines connected to course and lesson objectives

Communicate clearly what you expect.

Working with colleagues and challenging each other's assumptions, notes, and presentations. (Fierce conversations with colleagues)

Model expectations in your own speech, lessons, and handouts

Regularly ask students to explain themselves

Specific and prompt feedback

Constant self-evaluation

Create lesson objectives that are:

- Manageable
- Measurable
- Made first (objectives that precede activities and actions)
- Most important (what really matters)