

## The Four to One Rule

### What is the 4:1 rule?

The 4:1 rule says that supervisors should have *at least* four positive interactions with students or give students *at least* four positive comments for every negative or corrective interaction or comment.

### Why use the 4:1 rule?

Research shows that when supervisors have at least four positive interactions with students for each negative or corrective interaction:

- appropriate behavior increases
- disruptive and inappropriate behavior decreases.
- relationships between students and staff improve.

### How to use the 4:1 rule?

To use the 4:1 rule effectively:

- focus on expected, positive behavior
- make more positive comments to students than negative or corrective comments (at least 4:1)
- have more positive interactions with students than negative or corrective interactions (at least 4:1)

