

# Discussion on the Academic Guidance Strategy Based on the Students' Personalities under the Undergraduate Tutor System

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**Abstract.** Undergraduate tutorial system is an educational mode being implemented by many universities in China. Under the tutorial system, there is a theoretical value and practical significance to explore the guiding strategy based on the personalities of college students. The authors give three guidance advises through the theoretical studies and the experiences of undergraduate tutors; The first is to establish a good teacher-student relationship, the second is to provide a speciality guidance based on the personalities and academic background, and the third is to guide the students' personality cultivation. When the tutors apply and adjust the guidance strategy in the communication with the students, the students' comprehensive qualities and abilities can be enhanced, and the tutors' own scientific research and teaching level can be improved.

## 1 Introduction

In the 21st century, the trend of economic globalization has brought new opportunities and challenges to China higher education. All kinds of university graduates have been a new force of economic construction, and the new generation of college students has the characteristics of distinct personality and strong self-consciousness. The individual characteristics and personality development of college students become the important factors which cannot be ignored in the higher education.

In recent years, a new education and teaching system- tutor system has been established and applied in many universities in China for the purpose of better implementing the modern education concept of full-staff education, whole-process education and all-round education, and better adapting to the requirements of quality education and the transformation of talent training goals<sup>[1]</sup>. The aim of this system is to establish a "guide learning" relationship between the teachers and students, which means to guide the students' thoughts, learning and lives according to their personalities and aptitudes. In the harmonious atmosphere of the tutor system, it can promote students' autonomy and creativity, and is conducive to the development of students.

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Many educational masters in the world expressed the concept of personalized education in their works or opinions. It is an educational way, which is based on the understanding the characteristics of each student, and it emphasizes the development of different educational method within the possible range, so that all students with different intelligence can be subjected to the same good educations<sup>[2]</sup>.The literature<sup>[3]</sup> studied the graduate academic guidance system of Brown University, and analyzed the development history, content and characteristics.

Some problems were found during the implementation process of undergraduate tutor system in various colleges and universities, such as the system only stayed in the form, there was less interaction between tutor and student,the students lacked participation, and many undergraduate tutors were inexperienced. So the implementation effect of the tutor system are mainly affected by the guide communication mode, mentor responsibility consciousness, and students' initiative<sup>[4]</sup>.The author discusses the tutors' guiding strategies based on the students' personality characteristics by learning the<sup>[5,6]</sup> of psychology and pedagogy theories and the practice of undertaking undergraduate tutors.

## **2 Enhance understanding and establish a good teacher-student relationship**

Equal and free teacher-student relationship is the basis of achieving good education. Before determining the relationship of the mentor- student, the student generally had a certain understanding of the mentor's professional background, teaching and scientific research through the information channels provided by the school.

The first contact between the tutor and student happens generally in the first or the second school year after determining the academic mentor relationship, and the communication of face-to-face is the best mode. The tutor can meet one or several students, normally the students are familiar with each other. The tutor, as a questioner or a listener, can prepare the communication or discussion outline, which includes the student hometown information, family background, interests of recreation and sports, making friends, academic performance, and the current learning situation; Meanwhile, the tutor answers the students' random questions, and simply introduces his/her own professional background, interests, and scientific research topics.

When the tutor and students begin to talk, they go to a topic as naturally as possible with specific situations, such as: "What sports do you like?" "What unforgettable travel experience do you have?" "What interesting books have you read recently?" "What is the holiday arrangement on National- Day holidays ?" When facing some students non-talkative, the tutor can talk more and use more closed or semi-open questions, such as:" I recently watched a movie called Women's Volleyball Team. Have you seen it?" The tutor can next review the highlights of the film, or talk about the feelings, or respond to the students' answers. The tutor can also ask some professional background questions, such as: " Which course did you like best in high school?"

Through these conversations, the estrangement between the tutor and student can be eliminated in time, a relatively harmonious relationship can be formed, which provides a foundation for the tutor to deepen guidance and education so as to realize emotional interaction, equal communication, and exchange of ideas.

### 3 Provide the academic guidance basing on the students' personality characteristics and the academic background

Personality characteristics including innate quality refer to the unique characteristics of the individual, which are influenced by the family, school, and social environment. Personality characteristics are a person's relatively stable characteristics, but they are not unchanged. The theory of Nine-type personality, which originated in the Pythagorean era, has been applied to the European and American academia and business fields in the past decade. "Nine-type personality" indicates a nine-major characteristic category of emotional life, namely perfectionist, helper, achiever, romantic, observer, questioner, enthusiast, challenger, and peacemaker<sup>[7]</sup>. The type of personality reveals the deepest inner values and focus of ones' attention, which is not affected by superficial changes in external behavior. Through the personality type analysis, students may understand their personalities to fully accept their weaknesses and live their strengths; we may truly know friends and enemies, and get well with different people, and build a more sincere and harmonious partnership with others.

The tutor can use the simple questions of nine-type personality to test the personality type of the guided students<sup>[7]</sup>. In addition, the tutor can introduce his/her personality type and characteristics as well as the academic introduction. For example, the author's personality type seems to be an observer and a peacemaker, which characteristic is like from a bystander to focus on the point of view to oneself and his/her own life, and pay attention to the position of others, and avoid conflict.

Through full communication with the students, the tutor would have a deeper understanding about the students 'personality characteristics, the students' learning status, basic background, interests and hobbies, career planning and other details. Basing on this information, the tutor can establish student background files (see Table 1 in the example table). It should be noted that the content in the form needs to be constantly updated with the status' change, for examples, sometimes students' hobbies and career goals change, or their professional skills increase over time.

**Table1.** Example table of student background files

Name	Gender	Birth date	Hometown	Personality type	Hobbies	Strong points or Special skills	Career goals
S. Zhang	Male	2002.03	Zhang JiaJie, Hunan Province	Perfectionist	Playing football, basket ball...	Math, CAD drawing...	Designer
S. Li	Female	2003.01	Wei Fang, Shandong Province	Leader	Doing Yoga, Traveling, Singing...	Speech, English...	Artist or teacher
...	...						

After mastering the basic background of the students, the tutor can begin to make semester guidance and establish a guidance record table for individual student (see Table 2

for the example table). It is necessary to help students plan the tasks of each semester, and clarify their own advantages and deficiencies. So the tutor should give the guidance suggestions and opinions in practical significance and effect, and timely improve the guidance method or content according to the actual situation.

**Table 2.** Plans and records of Student1’s academic growth guidance (Example table)

School year	Guide time	Guide form	Topic	Results or problems of the student in guide	Improvement measures for guide
Sophomore	Saturday of Week 8 in Fall semester (done)	Interview with 3 students	Communication of learning methods on professional course	Helpful; not very active and speak less	To design a conversation outline
	Thursday of Week 1 in Spring semester (done)	Interview and discussion	Personality type test	Seems as a questioner and achiever	To guarantee the communication time related to the theme
	Sunday of Week 9 in Spring semester (done)	Mountain climb	Exchange of personal interests and hobbies, have a life values discussion	Understood deeper	Encourage the students open up and speak more
Junior(plan)	...		Discussion of curriculum		
			Innovation competition guidance		
			Discussion on topical issues		
Senior (plan)			Employment and career planning		
			Topic selection for graduation design		
			Preparation before graduation		

#### **4 Provide the guidance on personality cultivation to the student combining with the student’s personal characteristics**

Personality cultivation refers to the comprehensive quality of a human being, which is an important part of college students’ cultural quality.

The tutor should act as a role model, and be a good example to the students in Humanistic accomplishment. The words and deeds of the tutor will have a profound impact on the spiritual, psychological and emotional development of students. When the tutor is dedicated and diligent in teaching and research, the spirit of strict self-discipline and

hardworking would be passed to the students; the good personality and stable mood of the tutor would guide students against conceit and impetuosity in their studies and lives; and the tutor's interpersonal relationship and life style would also affect the development of students' emotional intelligence<sup>[8]</sup>.

In addition, the tutor should help the junior students adapt to campus lifestyle as soon as possible; guide them to overcome psychological dependence, develop skills to face society and handle various problems; induce them to properly handle various social relationships such as schoolmates, teachers and parents, and help them establish the correct outlooks of world, life and values<sup>[9]</sup>. Meanwhile, guide students to build a correct career view and career selection view according to their own volunteers and characteristics. These humanistic guidance are of great significance to promoting students' good development in the future.

## 5 Summary

The undergraduate tutorial system provides a platform for the interactions between teachers and students, and gives a relaxed educational environment of "teaching" and "learning"; The authors have discussed the under the system, and give three guidance advice which include to establish a good teacher-student relationship, to provide a speciality guidance based on the personalities and academic background, and to guide the students' personality cultivation. Through the guiding strategy, the tutors can timely notice students 'individual learning differences, and adopt the suitable guidance methods according to the students' aptitudes and personalities, arouse the students' potentials and help them determine the direction of personalized development, so that students can further clarify the purpose of learning, stimulate professional interest and broaden the scope of knowledge.

In short, the tutor can apply personalized guidance strategies to achieve "multi-win" and it is a useful and practical work to cultivate high-quality talents for the country and society; During the interaction between the tutor and students, the tutor's own research and teaching level can be improved as well as the students 'comprehensive accomplishment can be developed.

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