

## What Do Your Professors Expect of You?

Every faculty member has certain expectation of students. While not universally held, there are certain common elements of student behavior that most professors expect of a student.

### 1 Use Your Course Syllabi!

The syllabus is the guide/outline/plan for the course. It tells you what your professor believes to be important and the sequence that he/she believes will help you learn the material most successfully.

Professors expect you to read the syllabus and refer to it throughout the semester. The syllabus may contact:

**Course Requirements** (Textbooks (optional or mandatory) | Number of Tests | Written Assignments | Additional Readings | Special Projects | Group Projects)

**Important Dates** (Test Dates | Due Dates for Papers or Projects). Remember to transfer these critical dates to your Semester Planner so that you can finish or be prepared for these dates with no last minute scramble.



**Your Professor's Contact Information** (Office Location | Office Hours | Phone | E-Mail | Blackboard)

**Your Professor's Course Policies** (Attendance | Grading | Make-Up Work | Late Work)

**Resource Locations** (Library Collections | Blackboard | Internet Resources)

### 2 Attend Your Classes!

You cannot expect to do well in a class if you don't attend the class. All of the excuses (it's too early, I was up late, I have a head ache, I wanted to go to the game . . .) are just that, excuses. Non-attendance tells your professor you aren't concerned enough about doing well in his/her class to attend. So, when the end of the semester is looming and you go in to ask for help with what appears to be just another excuse for your poor performance, your professor is not likely to be too sympathetic.

Here are some guidelines for class attendance.

**Attend class regularly**

**Arrive early or, worse case, just in time for the start of class**

**Don't miss class except for emergencies** (Illness | Death of a Family member | Family Crisis)

**If you must miss class, contact the instructor to let him/her know why** (preferably *before* you miss the class)

If you missed class and go to see your professor, never ask your professor “if you missed something important”! From his/her perspective, if it was important enough for him/her to be there in order to teach a certain lesson it was important!! Instead, ask what material was discussed and what can you do to make up any missed work.

### 3 Get the Most Out of Every Session!

Be attentive.

Remain on task – listen actively and take notes.

Make eye-contact with your professor.

Sit in the front “T Zone”. (Mentally draw a “T” at the front of the classroom which stretches from one side of the classroom to the other with the leg of the “T” extending toward the back of the classroom. Generally, this includes the front 2-3 rows and 3-4 rows from the middle front of the room to the middle back of the room.)

Participate Actively.

Come to class having read any reading assignments and completed any other pre-class preparation assigned by your professor. This will allow you to participate intelligently in class.

### 4 Submit only Your Original Work!

**Your professor expects the papers and other work you turn in to be written or completed by you.** To avoid plagiarism and its potential consequences (suspension | expulsion | failure of class) document any ideas or materials that you use from a website, a printed source or other media (movie, television, music, etc.) using the appropriate documentation format (MLA | APA | Turabian or Chicago).

### 5 What to Avoid:

Sleeping in class.

Use of electronic devices (cell phone | Laptop for other than notes | PDA | MP<sup>3</sup> Player]. Working on assignments for another class.

Any behavior that distracts other students.