



Disability Resource Center  
Expectations in College

Important facts to consider about the difference between high school expectations and college...

## COLLEGE

- College is a choice, a right to access.
- College is **voluntary** and **costly**.
- You manage your own time.
- The decision to participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities is yours.
- Balancing your time and setting priorities is now your responsibility.
- You will make all your day-to-day decisions and many moral and ethical decisions will be part of those decisions.
- In College there are sometimes hours between classes; class times are varied throughout the day and evening and you spend only 12 to 16 hours each week in class.
- Your advisor assists you in arranging your own schedule towards degree completion. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
- Graduation requirements are complex, and differ from year to year. You are expected to apply for graduation and know when you are eligible.

[Type here]

- Once a student turns 18, parents no longer have legal right to student information, unless they maintain guardianship.
- Documentation of your disability is your responsibility. You are required to provide and pay for documentation of your disability
- Colleges are not required to reduce or waive essential course requirements.
- College is a student responsibility and students are held responsible for the consequences of their decisions.

## **COLLEGE CLASSES**

- The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week of finals for each.
- For each class you should allow at least 2 to 3 hours outside study time per class.
- You need to review class notes and text material regularly. Read over notes after each class, re-write notes and re-read before going to next class.
- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
- Learning is formulating thoughts and critical thinking.
- Students must take responsibility for their learning, professors assume students have read materials and proceed as it is done.

## **COLLEGE PROFESSORS**

- Professors do not always check homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
- Professors do not remind you of incomplete work.
- Professors are usually open and helpful, but they expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
- Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.
- Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
- Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
- Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
- Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
- Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended. Attendance policies are written on their syllabus, along with consequences for absences.

[Type here]

- Professors provide opportunity to expand knowledge and develop thinking.

### ***TESTING IN COLLEGE***

- Testing may be less frequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. There may only be one to 4 tests per term. A comprehensive final may be given.
- Test preparation is the students' responsibility. The professor may review for the test or they may not.
- Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, it is your responsibility to request them.
- Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
- Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.
- Tests are verbatim; you are expected to know what the professor is asking.
- Passing a course is based upon application of the principles taught.

### ***GRADES IN COLLEGE***

- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.

[Type here]

- Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
- Extra credit projects may not be an option in college.
- Watch out for your first tests. These are usually "wake-up calls" to let you know what is expected--but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades.
- You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard, typically a 2.0 or C.

### ***COLLEGE ACCOMODATION***

- In college shortened assignments are not a reasonable accommodation.
- In college you must meet the academic standards of a course. Success is not guaranteed.
- It is legal for a student with a disability to be academically dismissed from college.