

Best Practices for Success in the Dual Credit Classroom

Austin Community College

College & High School Relations

Presented by your Advising & Completion Specialist:

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A photograph of a paved road with double yellow lines curving through a desert landscape. The road is flanked by sand dunes and sparse, dry vegetation. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is bright and open, symbolizing a path forward.

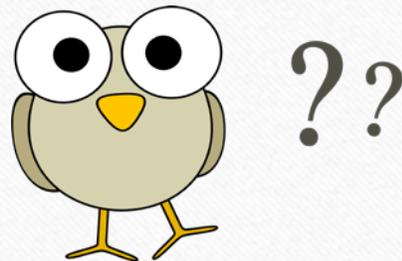
Success occurs when
opportunity meets preparation.

Zig Ziglar

quote fancy

Communication in a college setting

- **Communication is simple.** Many students hesitate to ask a question or request a meeting with their professor. In high school, students tend to see it as “uncool” to ask for help. In college, there are **high stakes**, and if you need help, you need to ask for it.



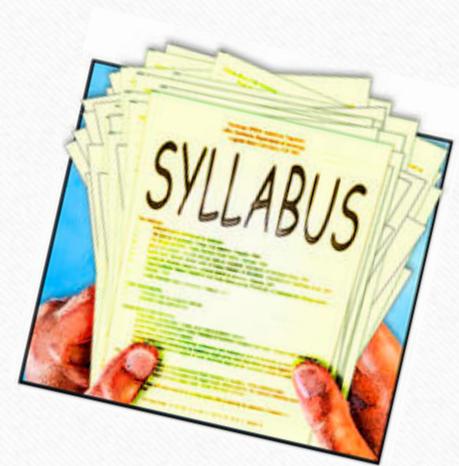
Communication with Professors



- Open communication is the best policy.
- **Email your professor when you will be absent.** Know the attendance policy for your ACC classes!
- Contact your professor when you miss a quiz, test, or any assignment.
- Your syllabus clarifies many rules & guidelines regarding your class. Check in with your professor *after* you have reviewed your syllabus with any additional questions.

But, first: Syllabus

- Most questions can be answered *by reading your syllabus carefully*. It contains all the information you need to be successful in your course. You can find:
 - Assigned reading, quizzes, due dates and exams
 - Detailed course policies & instructions
 - Contact information for your professor
 - Information on your textbook and other important resources





Requesting Help

- **Office Hours** are designated weekly so that students & their professor can communicate one-on one. Your course syllabus designates the date, time and location of your class's office hours.
- **Make an appointment** with your professor by emailing them to request a meeting during their office hours. If their office hours don't work with your schedule, you can always request an alternative date/time.

What Can Students Ask during Office Hours?

- Clarify concepts regarding your weekly reading or assignments
- Discuss your grade
- Request extra credit opportunities
- Ask questions about tutoring or other campus resources
- Request recommendation letters/ additional help



How Office Hours Help You

- By requesting a meeting with your professor, you are letting your professor know you are invested in your coursework. If you are struggling with your course, your professor needs to know; they have additional resources that can help you get on track. Getting help can dramatically improve your academic outcome in the course.
- Getting to know your professor on a one to one basis helps build rapport with your professor, which can also help with mentorship opportunities, recommendation letters and other opportunities.

Academic Dishonesty



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- Academic dishonesty is cheating. Cheating on an assignment, quiz or exam and plagiarism (using someone else's work as your own) has serious consequences.
 - **If you are caught, you will lose time, credit and possibly face expulsion from ACC, and whatever high school consequences are determined!**
 - The best way to avoid academic dishonesty is to ask for help. If you feel stuck or aren't sure you are completing an assignment correctly, resist the temptation to look at someone else's work. Ask for help.
 - You are in a college class and are considered full ACC students— maturity is essential to being successful in dual credit courses.



Floating often leads to Sinking

- If Dual Credit classes were easy, every student would start college work while in high school. Set the expectation that your college classes will be more challenging than your high school classes and adjust your study time accordingly.
- College coursework is not the kind of class that you can expect to “float” through without buying, reading and regularly using your textbook.
- If you are having difficulty purchasing your textbook, or getting funds to purchase your textbook, let your professor know, or talk to your advisor.

Classroom Conduct

- Your professor is different than your high school teachers. High school teachers monitor your behavior and report your conduct. College professors will not put up with misconduct because a college classroom is for adults.
- If you have difficulty conducting yourself as an adult, you may not be ready to be in a Dual Credit class setting.
- College courses not effort-based. Just because you submit an assignment does not mean you will receive a passing grade. College work often requires multiple revisions, tutoring and study time. It is your responsibility to learn how to be a good student.

Classroom Content



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- The college classroom is meant to help you expand your worldview. This means you may encounter topics in class that are controversial or challenging. Don't hesitate to speak up! Participation is very important to the learning process.
 - **Keep an open mind to new ideas and concepts.** College is where we learn to develop & refine our own thoughts and belief systems. Part of being a college student is also being mature and respectful of the opinion of others, even if you disagree. Respectful debate is encouraged.



High Stakes



- Dual credit coursework is difficult, but it has a long term benefit. You can graduate from high school with upwards of 12+ college credit hours!
- This saves you time, money and effort.
- Remember what is at stake when you feel frustrated. You have many resources to help you: your professor, your high school counselor, your ACC advisor (me), Learning Labs, Library Services, etc. Your success is up to you; don't wait to ask for help!

Presentation Recap

Do:

- Read your syllabus
- Communicate with your professor regularly
- Use office hours
- Your own work!
- Be prepared to work hard
- Conduct yourself as a college student
- Be mature & respectful



Don't:

- Expect to pass your courses simply by showing up and turning in a hasty assignment
- Ask your professor for help the day before an assignment is due
- CHEAT
- Aim for barely passing grades
- Be *that* student that makes the class laugh but misses the important point discussed

Final Thoughts

- The only bad question is an unasked question.

