

# College Expectations and Tips

Entering and navigating the world of higher education can be intimidating. Understanding college expectations can reduce stress and enhance your ability to succeed in completing your educational goals.

- ✓ **College Requires Greater Independent Learning**
  - Expectation to learn with less supporting material
  - Expectation for effective and efficient study strategies
  - Expectation for independent or non-directed study
  - Expectation that students ask questions as needed
  - TIP:** Always read assigned material prior to going to class.
  
- ✓ **College Courses Move At A Faster Pace**
  - Expectation to cover more material – semester versus a year to cover material
  - Expectation that attendance is consistent and student is on time
  - Expectation to learn details and independent filling in of details
  - TIP:** Keep up with readings, take notes, review
  
- ✓ **College Courses Require Critical Thinking**
  - Expectation to go beyond memorization of material
  - Expectations to synthesize material, compare and contrast, apply material, and/or critique material
  - TIP:** Apply the material to your own life whenever possible
  
- ✓ **College Classes Have Fewer Safety Nets**
  - Expect less or no extra credit assignments
  - Expect less or no other bonus assignments
  - Expectation to do well on limited assignments/exams used for grading
  - TIP:** Work hard at assignments and study for exams
  
- ✓ **College Requires Longer Study Periods and More Effective Studying**
  - Expect to spend longer periods of study time – 2 to 3 hours of studying per class hour
  - Expectations for active/effective studying is essential
  - TIP:** Stay organized, manage your time, prioritize, and college academic support systems
  
- ✓ **College Requires You to Be Proactive**
  - Expectation for student to take initiative in a variety of situations
  - Expectation to get missed notes from class mates
  - Expectation to become familiar with campus resources and services
  - TIP:** Take charge; don't wait until it's too late