Expectations of Students

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF NEW STUDENTS?

“The freedom from work, from restraint, from accountability, wondrous in its inception, became banal and counterfeit. Without rules there was no way to say no, and worse, no way to say yes.”

~Thomas Farber

If the extent of personal freedom at the University is an eye-opening experience for new students, an equally important element of the transition equation is the personal responsibility that accompanies that new freedom. Utah State is committed to maintaining personal and academic freedom and maximizing individual responsibility.

USU COMMUNITY

As a new student, you become a part of an exciting new community, the Utah State campus. As a member of the USU community, you are expected to be treated and treat other members of this community with honesty, courtesy, tolerance, and respect. It has been said that a well-educated person can disagree without being disagreeable. A valuable part of your experience at USU will be getting to know people with different values and backgrounds than your own; your ability to treat them with respect and to engage in meaningful discourse will enhance your life and theirs.

In all of your communications, whether they are in person, in writing, or electronic, you should avoid vulgarity, profanity, and other offensive content. USU has a very strict policy against sexual harassment; also any remarks or acts that may be interpreted as sexist, racist, or discriminatory against certain groups are prohibited.

New students are expected to assume responsibility for their education and behavior while at USU. Among those expectations are the following:

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Appropriate classroom conduct is expected of all students. Students should arrive at class on time and be prepared with the necessary books, notes, paper, and writing supplies. Coming prepared to class also means having completed assigned readings, reviewed notes, and prepared questions.

Instructors often request that students turn off and put away their phones during classtime. Texting and playing games on the phones can be very distracting to those around you. Using a laptop to take notes is an effective classroom strategy, but using it during class to search the web or play games can be disruptive. Also working on homework from another course, reading the Statesman during class, carrying on side conversations, and chatter during a lecture are inappropriate.

Cultivating relationships with faculty is important. You should develop the interpersonal skills that promote interaction with professors and instructors. The first step is to find out what they expect of students and what students can expect from them. This information is usually found in the course syllabus and/or is discussed on the first day of class. Generally speaking, most professors expect students to:
Expectations of Students

• **Attend class regularly.** You lose when you skip a class. If you must miss a class, arrange for another student to take notes for you (don’t expect the professor to give you his or her notes). Make sure you get any assignments that were announced.

• **Accept responsibility.** Don’t make excuses. Accept responsibility for your own learning.

• **Submit high-quality work in both content and form.** Do the best you can in both quality and neatness. Students who have difficulty writing papers should seek a tutor or visit the USU Writing Center located in Room 104 of the Ray B. West Building.

• **Turn in assignments on time.** Late assignments suggest a lack of enthusiasm and commitment. Habitually handing in assignments late is a bad habit that employers are less forgiving of. Most instructors don’t accept late assignments.

• **Arrive on time and be attentive in class.** Late arrivals are a distraction to the entire class. If you must be late, find the nearest convenient seat, and quickly and quietly sit down.

• **Participate in class discussions.** Participation in class is valued by some professors and not encouraged by others. Follow the preferences for each professor.

• **Meet with professors outside of class.** A good way to get to know your professor is to prepare some questions based on previous classes, readings, and your own reflections that you can ask the professor before class, after class, or in his/her office.

• **Leave cell phone in your bag.** Texting, checking email, or playing games are distracting to other students and disrespectful to the instructor.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The faculty and staff at USU expect students and faculty alike to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Students who are unaware of the specific standards of the University concerning academic honesty are referred to *The Student Code* (revised September 2009), Article VI, Section 1. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

• Stealing a copy of the exam ahead of time
• Copying from someone else’s paper
• Sending or receiving signals during an exam
• Using unauthorized notes during an exam
• Taking an exam for another student
• Letting another student take an exam for you
• Handing in a paper that you have not written

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating, in which a student fails to give proper credit for written work belonging to someone else. It is trying to pass off the work of others as one’s own. Students falsely assume that they will not be caught; however, professors are very adept at identifying work that has been incorrectly documented or “borrowed” from another source without proper citation. Also, new technology
Expectations of Students

has been developed to compare a student’s papers with other students’ work and papers collected from sources such as the internet, journals, books, or other publications. Knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as your own in any academic exercise or activity carries with it serious consequences.

**HONOR CODE**

To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

“I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.”

The University’s Honor Code has been created to provide a community of academic excellence. Violations of the policy will subject the offender to the university’s discipline procedures as outlined in *The Code of Policies and Procedures*. It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of these policies and procedures. Ignorance is no excuse for noncompliance. The code can be viewed at: [http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct/](http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct/).

**CLASSROOM CIVILITY**

Regardless of intent, careless or ignorant remarks can be very offensive and detrimental to others. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, immediately contact: James Morales, Vice President of Student Services, (435) 797-1712, james.morales@usu.edu. Learn your student rights by visiting: [http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/](http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/).