Tips For Working With Your Professors

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"It is noble to teach oneself, but still nobler to teach others."
- Mark Twain
Student Habits

What Professors Appreciate
- Attending class
- Being on time
- Classroom civility/courtesy
- Completed homework
- Being prepared for class
- Class participation
- Phones off and put away

What Professors Don’t Appreciate
- Unpreparedness
- Falling asleep in class
- Side conversations with friends
- Not following proper procedures in the lab
- Excuses
What’s The First Thing I Should Do When Receiving A Poor Or Unexpected Grade?

- Answer: speak to my professor!

- Unfortunately this is often the last thing students tend to do!

- Why do you think this is?
Survey Says…

- Fear!

- Many students say they feel inadequate or worried about how they will be perceived having earned a low grade.

- The sooner you can discuss the issue - the sooner you can get on track to success. Your professor can help you understand where the problem is so you can improve.

- Be proactive regarding your grades.

- At the end of the day…it’s your GPA after all.
When Going To Speak To Your Professor...

- Go during assigned office hours or schedule a meeting.
- Come prepared; bring a list of questions/concerns, any relevant documentation or coursework.
- Take notes, ask for clarification if needed.
- If your professor will need to get back to you with information, ask when you can expect to hear from them and the best way for you to follow up.
- Send an e-mail thanking them for taking time to work with you and restate any important information discussed.
How Do I Begin?

- Professor...I'm not getting the kind of grades I know I can in your class; what do you see that I can do to change this?

- What do you think is the key to mastering this subject matter?

- If you were a student in this class what would you be doing to earn an “A”?

- Would you mind if I came by during your office hours to get some additional help?
Check In!

- Let your professor know what you have been doing to improve. What is working and what you still need help with.

"Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

- Conrad Hilton
You Get More Out Of Your Education By Getting To Know Your Professors!

- Perform better in class
- Have a mentor
- Learn about research and other opportunities
- Recommendations
- Learn more about your major/field of study
- Feel connected