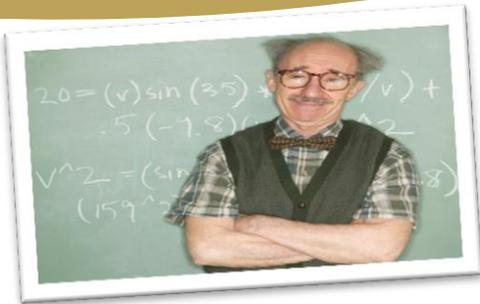


## Getting along with Instructors



Students at Fresno State have a variety of resources to help them succeed in college ... but one of the most obvious ones is often overlooked: professors and instructors. While their titles may sound intimidating, professors and instructors are actually there to help you learn.

### So what do my professors expect from me?

#### DON'T ...

- ... Ask questions that show you haven't done the assigned reading or that you haven't been listening/attending lecture.
- ... Ask general questions such as, "Could you explain chapter 3?"
- ... Ask personal questions during class such as, "When can I take my make-up exam?"
- ... Ask during class for any handouts that you missed due to an absence.
- ... Expect the instructor to accept your excuses for turning in late assignments if you do so often.
- ... Offend your instructor. Falling asleep, reading, listening to music, texting or coming in late/leaving early from class are insulting and offensive, not to mention distracting to other students.

#### Do ...

- ... Come prepared to class and office hours by getting missed lecture notes from another student before you ask questions.
- ... Take the time to read the chapter and ask specific questions about what you are struggling with.
- ... Ask personal questions during office hours.
- ... Find out from classmates what handouts were distributed and make copies of theirs or download them from Blackboard if available.
- ... Turn in assignments on time. Instructors are not likely to accept your excuses more than once or twice. They've heard them all before anyways!
- ... Act respectfully and courteously by coming to class on time, leaving only when the class is over, and avoiding distracting or rude behaviors.

### And what about actually meeting with them?

- ❖ **Adopt the attitude that your professors want to help you** – Your instructors can't solve your problems for you, but they can help you figure out what to do!
- ❖ **Concerns about tests** – Although poor test grades can be very upsetting and disappointing, being defensive or hostile is likely to get you nowhere. Accept responsibility and ask for advice to improve, explaining to your instructor what you did to prepare for the exam.
- ❖ **Questions about course content** – Be specific when you meet with your instructors. This shows that you've done the assigned readings and attended class but is simply struggling with an area rather than asking the professor to re-lecture you during their office hours.



It's helpful to schedule an **appointment** with your professor to meet during their office hours. Many instructors use that time to grade assignments and prepare for classes.

Just dropping in can be frustrating when the professor isn't prepared or there are other students already there!