



Dual Credit Expectations Sherrard High School

Syllabus

A college syllabus is often called the “contract of the course” because it contains information about what to expect—from the professor and the student. It is meant to be a roadmap for succeeding in the class. The syllabus is a guide for what you will be doing in the class and can make a big difference in your transition to college. Students need to read each professor’s syllabus thoroughly. Specific course expectations could vary from class to class.

Attendance

Professors have differing expectations for attendance. In college, students will be dropped from classes due to lack of attendance. Some professors allow students to only miss 3 days, where others may allow 5. Because students are expected to read the syllabus, they can be dropped for lack of attendance without verbal notification.

Online classes, or classes that only meet once a week (whether in-person or via Zoom), may have a different set of expectations. Students should inquire and understand what is expected of them as far as attendance for these types of classes.

Rigor

College classes will be more rigorous than high school classes. In addition, professors will not walk students through how to do things step by step - some inference is expected. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the professor if they do not understand.

Communication

Students are expected to communicate with their professors on any class related issue. Minimal communication will be made with the HS counseling office. Professors cannot communicate with parents and families of students without permission because of the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Difference between High School and College

There are many differences between high school and college classes. The table on the reverse side of this document compares the differences in grading, learning, getting help, and tests and exams.

Differences between High School and College

	High School	College	Why You Need to Know the Difference
Grades	Grades are made up of frequent tests and homework, and you may be able to bring up a low initial grade by completing smaller assignments and bonuses.	Grades are often made up of fewer assignments, and initial low grades may keep you from earning high course grades at the end of the semester.	You will need to be prepared to earn high grades on all assignments because you may not have the opportunity to make up for lost ground.
Learning	Learning is often done in class with the teacher guiding the process, offering multiple ways to learn material and frequent quizzes to ensure that learning is occurring.	Learning happens mostly outside of class and on your own. Faculty are responsible for assigning material and covering the most essential ideas; you are responsible for tracking and monitoring your learning progress.	You will need to practice effective learning strategies on your own to ensure that you are mastering material at the appropriate pace.
Getting Help	Your teachers, parents, and a counselor are responsible for identifying your need for help and for creating a plan for you to get help with coursework if you need it. Extra assistance is usually reserved for students who have an official diagnosis or need.	You will most likely need help to complete all your courses successfully even if you did not need extra help in high school. You will be responsible for identifying that you need it and contacting the professor to access available resources.	Because the responsibility is on you, not parents or teachers, to get the help you need, you will want to be aware of when you may be struggling to learn material. You then will need to know <i>where</i> the support can be accessed.
Tests and Exams	Tests cover small amounts of material and study days or study guides are common to help you focus on what you need to study. If you paid attention in class, you should be able to answer all the questions.	Tests are fewer and cover more material than in high school. If you read all the assigned material, took good notes in class, and spent time practicing effective study techniques, you should be able to answer all the questions.	This change in how much material and the depth of which you need to know the material is a shock for some students. This may mean you need to change your strategies dramatically to get the same results.