

## How am I doing?

Sometimes it's hard to know how well (or how poorly) you're doing in a college class because you may not get frequent feedback on your performance. But it's very important to have a realistic sense of how you're doing in your classes. Certainly by the 6th week of the semester you should be able to assess how you're doing in each class, and determine whether you need to make any adjustments. It's very important that you understand the criteria your instructors are using to determine your grade.

## Ask yourself...

First, give yourself an honest answer to each of these questions:

- 1) Have you read the syllabus for each class?
- 2) Are you keeping up with the reading assignments in each class, and do you read the material before going to class?
- 3) Have you missed any class meetings? Been late to class? If so, how many times?
- 4) How comfortable or confident do you feel about your performance in each of your classes?
- 5) What grade do you think you are earning in each class? You should keep your own records of grades earned on each assignment and exam. Consult the syllabus for information on how these will be weighted to determine your overall course grade.

Now, meet with each of your instructors. They will be expecting a visit from every new student prior to the middle of the semester.

## Ask your instructors...

- 1) What grades do you have recorded for me so far in this class? (If you are unclear what your course grade will be based on--exams, homework, attendance, etc., or how these will be weighted to determine your overall course grade--get clarification).
- 2) According to your records, am I missing any assignments at this point? (If so, can I still make them up?)
- 3) If I keep on doing what I'm doing, will my course outcome be average, below average, or above average?
- 4) If I desire to improve my performance in your class, do you have suggestions about how I could do so?
- 5) Be sure to ask any other questions you have, especially questions you may have about material the instructor is covering in class.

## Tips for your visit with your instructors...

Before you make your visit, review your syllabus for each class. If you have any questions, now is the time to ask. For example: "Can we go over how each of the extra credit options would contribute to my score?"

If you have a graded test or homework assignment, you could bring it in. For example: "Could we go over how my essay might have been improved?"

You will help your instructor help you if you give him or her some information about yourself. For example: "I'm majoring in this area, but this is the first required class I've taken," or "I'm undeclared and am considering this area as a major," or "I'm interested in the topics of the readings, but I'm having difficulties with your essay questions," or "I feel that I understand your lectures, but I'm having difficulty imagining what kind of multiple choice items you will write on the topics."

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What grades do you have recorded for me so far in this class? (If you are unclear what your course grade will be based on--exams, homework, attendance, etc., or how these will be weighted to determine your overall course grade--get clarification).
  
- 2) According to your records, am I missing any assignments at this point? (If so, can I still make them up?)
  
- 3) If I keep doing what I'm doing, will my course grade be average, below average, or above average?
  
- 4) If I desire to improve my performance in your class, do you have suggestions about how I could do so.
  
- 5) Be sure to ask any other questions you have, especially questions you may have about material the instructor is covering in class.