

A Few Things You Should Know About The College Learning Experience....

There are a lot of questions that you need to ask about how to have a successful academic career. Some of the answers begin with your own motivations. For example, why get a college education—what is it for? Why do employers value a college degree? What do you know about college? What are you paying for?

A lot of students come to college to "get a degree," or "because my parents wanted me to," or "because I want to make more money." None of those reasons are particularly conducive to actually wanting to learn anything. College is not the end of your education—it is another stage in the process—one that will prepare you for life-long learning. At the end of your college career you will have acquired, along with a great many other things, an understanding of how to teach yourself new skills, how to manage your time effectively—and you will be better prepared for work or more advanced studies. In addition to an area of concentrated studies, you will have knowledge gained from studies in a variety of disciplines. As you change careers you will no doubt draw upon these experiences. But none of these accomplishments will come without hard work.

All of the courses in the Communication Arts Department are designed to assist students in exploring a liberal arts education. Introductory courses present an overview to the discipline, intermediate level courses allow students to apply critical thinking and other skills in more challenging environments. Advanced courses help students embrace concepts and methodologies that are appropriate for deeper exploration of contemporary issues in critical studies, performance, and media. In all of these courses, students are expected to demonstrate an appropriate level of engagement with the course content. To help accomplish this, we want you to be aware of the following. ...

Faculty in the Communication Arts Department post their teaching schedules on or near the door of their offices. These schedules contain the course name, number and titles s/he is teaching that semester, the class meeting dates and locations, as well as office hours, office phone, and campus email address. College faculty office hours are for students to use to discuss issues relating to their progress in any given course, but most especially those you are enrolled in with that professor. They **may** be used for advising, but their primary purpose is for class-related discussion. You are required to see your professor at least once during the academic semester so that you become more familiar with her/his course policies as well as your progress in the course to-date.

Whether online, "hybrid" or a traditional lecture or studio class, all courses in the Communication Arts Department are taught from a "syllabus." This document is the professor's outline for the learning process that will be followed in the course. It should contain the professor's name, location of their office, email and phone addresses, office hours, as well as a list of required texts, holdings on reserve in the Library, web resources, course goals and objectives, attendance and grading policies, and the course meeting dates (usually laid out in terms of lecture topics, reading assignments, and due dates for projects and written and/oral assignments.) Whether or not its posted on the course website or handed out to you during the first day of classes, this document is your 'contract for learning'—and you can expect that professors in the Communication Arts Department will demand your full attention to, preparation for, and participation in the exercises, discussions, and practical experiences s/he has prepared for your education. (If the professor falls behind because of school closings or other reasons, your syllabus will be updated.)

Students enrolled in Communication Arts courses are expected to behave responsibly toward each other; toward faculty, staff, and toward other students in the Department, and toward members of the FSC academic community. This includes refraining from using cell phones during classes, and using your laptops in accordance with policies outlined in the syllabus or discussed in classes. Your professors also expect you to arrive to class on time and attend class regularly (most faculty penalize you for being absent and/or late for class). Faculty expect you to be prepared for participation in class—whether it's a performance, a critique, class discussion or in-class assignments—or any combination of the above.

Important messages about you and the Communication Arts Department will be sent to students via Blackboard each semester. To receive these messages you must frequently check your student Blackboard account or make sure messages are transferred to the e-mail account you most frequently use. If you need help in making the change in Blackboard, call the Help Desk.

And finally, students who have special needs and/or learning disabilities are required to place acceptable documentation on file at CASA. CASA personnel will determine the validity of the se documents, and the student is to inform the instructor in writing of the existence of a special need and/or learning disability as soon as possible after classes begin. The instructor will determine that the required documentation is on file, and both the instructor and the student will then develop a written agreement as to how the student's special needs will be addressed. The instructor, student and CASA will keep a copy of this agreement.