COLLEGE

Expectations Versus Reality
Expectations

• Professors and Instructors
• Class Attendance
• Homework
• Communicating with Faculty
• Being Successful

• How I thought college professors would act like
Reality

• My actual college professor

• Many expectations are grounded in movies and television

• So what are some of the realities of the classroom, faculty, and student success?
• **FUN FACT:** Not all instructors in college are “professors” or addressed as “Dr.”
  • Look for Ph.D., Ed.D., or other “D” letters

• They are experts in their field of study and many are active researchers. Often students participate in research with faculty while in school.

• Instructors maintain regular office hours where you can go and speak with them outside of class.
Class Attendance

• It is your responsibility to attend class!
• Some instructors have attendance policies, others do not.
• Use absences allowed wisely and communicate with your professors if you have to miss class.
• It’s not enough just to ATTEND, you also have to be ENGAGED.
Professors have high expectations for how much work you are going to put into their courses.

- Read the chapters
- Take notes
- Finish homework on time
- Ask for help!

Your final grade reflects effort!
The Syllabus

• Every class will have a syllabus with course information, expectations, assignments, and much, much more.

• You can find your professor’s contact information, office hours, and, importantly, their name.

• **FUN FACT:** The first day of class is not always “Syllabus Day” where you leave immediately after getting your syllabus.
Communicating with Faculty

• Do it.

• Use your MTMail account to email
  • Include your name and M#
  • Be professional and courteous
  • Check spelling and grammar
  • Wait for a response
  • Check email Often

• Make appointments to meet during their office hours.

When you email your professor at 2am and they respond within a minute
Pet Peeves

- Sleeping in class
- Your cell phone
- Tardiness/Leaving early
- Packing before class ends
- Missing appointments
- Late assignments
- Asking for help AFTER doing all these things!

CAN'T FALL ASLEEP IN CLASS

IF YOU OVERSLEEP AT HOME
Academic Integrity

• Professors do expect you to do your own, honest work.

• Plagiarism, cheating, and any form of academic dishonesty are taken very seriously in college.

• Be careful about citing your sources and using GOOD sources.
  • Not Wikipedia or ChatGPT

DO YOU WANT TO GET KICKED OUT OF COLLEGE?
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW YOU GET KICKED OUT OF COLLEGE
The Marketplace of Ideas

• This is an extremely diverse campus with students from around the state, country and world.
• There will be ideas that challenge you and your viewpoints in class, in social circles, and around campus.
• Never an intention to change your views, offend you, or make you uncomfortable, but it may happen.
• Ultimately we want students to have a broad understanding of the world, be educated citizens, and think critically.
• **FUN FACT:** Free Speech Center on campus
Student Success

• Your success is our number one priority!
  • In the classroom
  • In your career
  • As a member of society
  • As a person

• We will provide a well rounded education and countless opportunities to succeed.
  • General Education
  • Numerous majors and advising
  • Career guidance and assistance
Student Success

• Get involved academically!
  • Honor Societies
  • Major/Career based organizations
  • Undergraduate research
  • Band, Choir, Theatre

• Use all available resources
  • Walker Library
  • Tutoring (FREE)
  • University Writing Center

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
THE LIBRARY HAS MORE THAN JUST STARBUCKS INSIDE?
Student Success

• Your professors can play a key role in your success and career.

• As experts in their field, they can help you find internships and jobs, and they can write letters of recommendation.

• That starts with communicating, establishing relationships, and exhibiting the qualities of a great student!
Scholars Academy

- **Goal:** To get students acclimated to college life before the fall semester starts.
- **Opportunity:** Arrive on campus two weeks early, experience a college course, learn about campus resources, network with faculty and staff, and get a comprehensive preview of what it is like to be an MTSU student.
- **Dates:** August 13th-24th
- **Costs:** Room and board, instructional costs, and meals are covered.
- **Why Scholars Academy?** Early move-in, year-round academic support, strong campus connections, higher retention and graduation rates
- **Apply Today!**
In Conclusion…

• Professors are people, too
• Go to class
• Participate in class
• Put in the effort
• Turn everything in on time
• Read your syllabus
• Communicate
• Get involved
• Success ✔️