College is Different From High School

How to Survive & Thrive at UVU
Myths About College

FREEDOM. That’s why so many students look forward to college. Freedom from being told what to do and where to be all of the time. But one of the great myths about college is that you can have freedom without consequences. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you want to survive and thrive at UVU, don’t fall prey to these common college myths.

MYTH #1: I DON’T ACTUALLY HAVE TO GO TO CLASS.

WRONG. Class attendance is crucial in college. Professors often present supplemental information in lectures that is not found in the textbook. This information will be included on your course exams. Even if a professor doesn’t formally take attendance, they are aware of who attends and who doesn’t. This could be a determining factor for turning a borderline “C” into a “D.”

MYTH #2: HOMEWORK DOESN’T MATTER, JUST TESTS.

There may not be as much “busy work” in college, but assigned papers and projects are usually a hefty part of your grade. And, don’t expect your professors to remind you when a project is due. It is your job to read your course syllabus* to know what is due and when.

EXTRA TIP: If you absolutely have to miss class on a day that a project is due, be ready to turn it in at the class meeting prior to the due date. Excuses don’t have much traction in college and many professors don’t accept late assignments. Period.

MYTH #3: COLLEGE PROFESSORS ARE TOO BUSY TO HELP YOU.

Actually, most college professors really want to help you succeed. The difference is that they expect you to initiate the contact, so be prepared to ask for help. Professors at UVU keep office hours* when you can come and ask questions during non-class time.

MYTH #4: “D” IS A PASSING GRADE.

Maybe in high school, but not in college. While a “D” might squeak you by in some college general education* classes, most upper-division courses in your major require a “C” or better. And, you will only graduate if your cumulative GPA meets the minimum departmental standard—usually a 2.0 or “C” average.
High school is about following rules. College is about making choices (and living with the consequences).

*Important College Terms

SYLLABUS [sil-uh-bus] n. An outline of the course content, including assignments and due dates. Usually handed out on the first day of class and available online. Make sure you thoroughly review your syllabus for EVERY class!

OFFICE HOURS [aw-fis · ou-ers] n. Time your professors set aside to be available for YOU to come and ask questions about the class. Consider yourself invited to drop-in!

GENERAL EDUCATION [jen-er-uhl · ej-oo-kay-shuhn] n. Required courses that give you broad exposure to a range of subjects, essential to the foundation of a well-rounded, quality college education. You’ll find these to be some of the most memorable classes that you take!

* UVU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age (40 and over), disability status, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other bases protected by applicable law in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.
Checklist

Do you really want to thrive at UVU? Then be sure to participate in all of the FYE programs listed below!

uvu.edu/firstyear

01 JUMPSTART ORIENTATION
This half-day event gives you keen insight into the “ins and outs” of being a successful UVU student. All new freshmen are required to attend Jumpstart before classes begin.

02 FRESHMAN READING PROGRAM
Read The Boys in the Boat before classes start and you’ll be ready to participate in book-related events all year long.

03 PERSONALIZED ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT
As a new student, you’re required to meet with your advisor before you register, and it’s recommended every year after that.

04 FRESHMAN CONVOCATION
You don’t want to miss this exciting kick-off to your freshman year! All new freshmen, admitted either in summer or fall, need to attend.

05 UVCOMMIT PLEDGE
You’ve decided to go to college; now commit to stay and graduate.

06 SLSS 1000 or SLSS 205g
Learn how to thrive in college, and beyond! All new freshmen should take one of these classes during your first year. Ask your advisor about which course is right for you.

07 STARTSMART EMAILS
Helpful emails sent to you every week during your first semester. Make sure you read them!

08 FRESHMAN YEAR-END CELEBRATION
Celebrate the successes of your first year at UVU. You deserve to party...you survived your freshman year!