

International Exchange/ Cooperative Students

How to study under
the American System

American Education System



- The American education system gives students a variety of choices
- At the university level, courses are only one semester long
- All students, including you, have an academic advisor to help them with their academic decisions. You also have an OIP coordinator to help you with other non-academic issues



Classroom learning: Professors usually assign textbook and other readings each week. They expect you to read it!

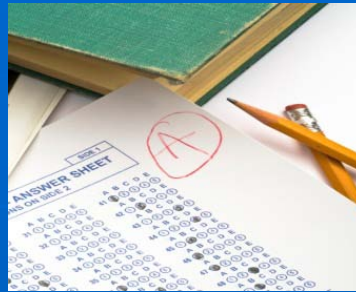
Be familiar with FAU Blackboard and check it for updates, such as new readings, and assignments before you attend class. You will be expected to keep up to date on your own.



Academic year: The school calendar usually begins in late August and continues through early August. The academic year is composed of three terms or semesters, fall, spring, and summer.

Credits: Each course is worth a specific number of credits. A course is normally three to four credits. A full-time program is 12 or 15 credit-hours (four or five courses per term).

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE
REQUIRED TO BE FULL-TIME EACH TERM**



Grades: Professors award students a grade for each course they take. The grades may be based upon:

1. Classroom participation
2. Exams
3. Research papers
4. Quizzes
5. Homework Assignments
6. Final examination
7. Presentations

(Check your grades often to see where you stand. If you think there is a mistake in your grade or you have questions about your grade make an appointment to see your professor)

Academic Dishonesty

- Students are expected to have academic integrity. Academic dishonesty occurs when students violate the FAU Code of Academic Integrity.

www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/reg_4.001_5-26-10_final.pdf

- Examples of academic dishonesty:
 - Cheating
 - Plagiarism



What is Cheating?

- Using unauthorized notes, books, electronic devices or other study aids during an exam.
- Obtaining from or providing assistance to another student while taking an examination.
- Having someone other than yourself take an exam or complete an assignment.
- Unlawfully securing a copy of an exam or sharing an exam with other students.



What is Plagiarism?

- Borrowing ideas, terms, statements or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgement of the source.
- Putting someone else's ideas or facts into your own words without proper citation.
- Knowingly giving an incorrect citation.
- Downloading information from the internet without acknowledging the source.



10 Ways to Irritate your Professor



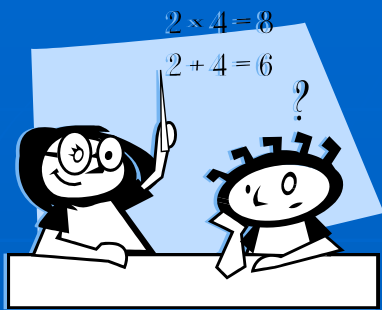
1. Using slang/text language when communicating via e-mail.
2. Carrying on side conversations in class when your professor is lecturing.
3. Using your cell phone in class.
4. Arriving late to class, especially when the professor just saw you in the hallway before class started.
5. Having a parent call your professor for you.
6. Calling or emailing your professor after missing class to ask "Did I miss anything important in class today?"
7. Closing the textbook and packing up before class is over
8. Coming to class in inappropriate attire.
9. Asking, "Is this going to be on the test?"
10. Turning in papers and assignments late.

Study Tips

- Read the required chapter(s) before going to class
- Participate by asking questions and making comments
- Interact with your professor
- Ask questions
- Visit the professor during office hours if you don't understand something or just to introduce yourself and make a connection
- Take notes in class
- Go to class

Study Tips

- Connect to campus: team sports, cultural groups, student organizations
- Do not be afraid to ask for help: study abroad advisor/academic advisor/counseling center/health care facility
- Have designated study area that is free from distractions
- Take care of yourself by getting plenty of sleep, eating healthy, and exercising



Places to go for help

- University Center for Excellence in Writing: Gives students FREE writing support.
 - www.fau.edu/ucew
- Supplemental Instruction: Peer-led, voluntary, weekly study sessions for students taking FAU's most difficult courses, such as Calculus, QMB, Microeconomics, Accounting, Chemistry, etc.
 - www.fau.edu/si
- English Speaking Partner Program: International students are paired up with U.S. students who want to help them practice their English.
 - trtucker@fau.edu