

Classroom Expectations in Nutrition and Dietetics

An objective of the study of any discipline at university is to prepare you for a career of further education in that discipline. Part of this preparation is the development of high standards of work and work ethics. You have worked hard to get into university. Now it is up to you to demonstrate respect for your professors and fellow students and contribute to a university learning experience that is positive and productive for all. Some of our expectations for creating a positive learning environment are:

- **Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to attend classes and labs; any absenteeism should be professionally communicated to the professor, preferably before the class or laboratory period. Class participation is encouraged and in some cases is a requirement for the course. Be sure to read course outlines carefully for specific course expectations.
- **Communication Policy:** In accordance with the University's communication policy, all students are expected to activate and maintain an Acadia email address. The email address assigned to a student by the University will be the only email address used by Acadia for official communication with students for academic and administrative purposes. (2025-2026 University Calendar, p.31)
- **Presentation of Assignments:** All submitted materials should be of the best possible quality. If you can't write it neatly, type it; if a lab sheet has to be filled in by hand, begin with a scrap sheet and copy it over when you know what is to be included.
- **Meeting deadlines:** Assignments must be submitted on or before the designated due date. You are responsible for planning your work schedule in advance and you have to accept the consequences for any penalties incurred for submitting assignments late. Again, check the course outline for the penalties imposed by each professor for late assignments.
- **Prerequisites:** You are expected to be prepared by knowing material from prerequisite courses because you will be using the knowledge, skills and proficiencies gained from previous classes to further expand your knowledge of the subject area.
- **Courteous conduct:** Among peers, with faculty and staff, in the classroom and when representing the School of Nutrition and Dietetics, politeness and professional behaviour are required; swearing, side conversations, electronic messaging, cell phone calls made or received while in class, non-course related web browsing or off-topic game playing are not courteous or acceptable. When in class, your attention should be 100% on the topic at hand. Similarly, intoxication of any kind will not be tolerated.
- **Respect for those who are teaching or presenting:** Most of the classes and labs in your program will be challenging. Side conversations or non-course related laptop use while faculty members, guest speakers, or fellow students are presenting distract those around you and infringe on their learning. Please show respect for those who are teaching by giving them your full attention and keeping private conversations and leisure laptop use

outside the classroom. Learning is as much what you put into it as what someone else teaches you.

- **Scent Free Policy:** In consideration of the difficulties that exposure to scented products causes individuals with sensitivities and allergies, Acadia University has adopted a ‘Share the Air’ policy, promoting a scent free campus. The School of Nutrition and Dietetics therefore asks all students, faculty, guests and staff to refrain from wearing scented personal care products such as perfumes, aftershave or scented lotions.
- **Professionalism:** Professionalism implies a respect and courtesy for others in our School, the university and those from the community you will interact with during your time at Acadia and beyond. We expect our students to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in the classroom, the university community, in clinical and related professional and public settings, including your on-line presence. All that you say and do, and the way you present yourself has a potential impact on both your professional image and your learning outcomes.
- **Interpersonal expectations:** As in most settings, there may be times when you disagree with your instructors or classmates. Disagreement and discussion are actually a productive part of university education and are to be expected. There are appropriate and productive ways to handle disagreements and concerns.
 - When you have a question or disagreement, it is appropriate and important to talk with your professor or classmate in a positive, professional way. State your concern and how you feel about it. As adults, you can discuss the issue and hear each other's opinion.
 - In the rare instance in which you are not able to resolve a disagreement or concern with your instructor, there are appropriate steps to follow to find a resolution.
 - A positive attitude and optimistic outlook will go a long way in all learning situations.

Remember, after you leave Acadia, you will be a representative of the university and our School. We expect your conduct in the classroom, lab and the community to be equal to that of your first day on the job. Your first preparation for that task is here and now.

Adapted from **Classroom expectations in Earth and Environmental Science**, Earth and Environmental Science, 2010.