Academic Issues for New International Students

For additional information please check the OIPS Website at:
http://www.unm.edu/oips/students_resource.html

1. Importance of Academic Success

- Failure to maintain full-time enrollment may result in deportation from the U.S. and inability to complete your program, so PLEASE plan your schedule carefully before you register for classes. You do not want to find yourself in a situation where your only choices are to fail a class or to drop below full-time and have to leave the program for immigration reasons!

- In order to succeed you must understand what is expected of you. To do this, you must maintain open communication with your advisors and instructors and constantly verify that you are on the right track! Don’t rely only on what your friends tell you!!!

2. Classroom Expectations and Academic Standards

- **Assignments:** Students are responsible for knowing the classroom work schedule and assignment deadlines. Each course will have a syllabus given at the beginning of the semester that outlines assignments and expectations. You are expected to keep up with readings and assignments throughout the year (although you are not expected to read every word if there are a lot of readings – you must learn to skim). Students are also expected to keep up with class information by reading email, accessing reserved readings, websites, etc.

- **Classroom conduct:** Regular attendance is expected. Participation is usually required and part of the grade. The teacher may cover material in class that is not in the text and may give hints about what will be in the exam.

- **Writing papers:** Students are expected to write a concise and direct argument.

- **Grading and evaluation:** Expectations and evaluation methods are usually explained on the syllabus. Tests, quizzes and assignments are frequent and will count toward your final grade. Students are often expected to think creatively on tests, not just memorize.

3. Academic Integrity Issues

- **Cheating and plagiarism:** Definition and consequences of cheating and plagiarism are different in every country. In the U.S., collaboration is often NOT allowed so always clarify the rules with the instructor. Students ARE expelled from U.S. universities for cheating. Plagiarism (copying the work of others without indicating the name of the author) also carries severe sanctions from U.S. universities. If you are unclear about the definition of plagiarism ask your instructor. Also, read the UNM policy on cheating and plagiarism in the Pathfinder (student handbook), [http://pathfinder.unm.edu/](http://pathfinder.unm.edu/) and check the OGS website information on Academic Integrity at: [http://ogs.unm.edu/current-students/academic-integrity.html](http://ogs.unm.edu/current-students/academic-integrity.html)
4. Relationships
Probably very different from your home country!

- **Student/student**: May be more or less competitive than your home country
- **Academic advisor**: Helps plan your program of study; he/she can consult with you about academic problems and goals
- **Teaching/Graduate assistants** (TA/GAs): May teach the whole class or may just help the professor
- **Professors**: Often expect to communicate directly with students. Professors have office hours for seeing students and answering questions. Always inform your professor of problems/difficulties so that they know your situation (don’t wait!!!)

5. Academic Resources

- **English language**: CELAC (Center for English Language & American Culture) offers intensive English through OIPS, call 277-4032 or visit online at: [http://www.unm.edu/~celac](http://www.unm.edu/~celac)

- **College of Education Graduate Writing Studio** (all grad students),
  Call 277-0466 or see website for more information, hours & location: [http://coe.unm.edu/index.php/current-students/graduate-students/coe-graduate-student-writing-studio](http://coe.unm.edu/index.php/current-students/graduate-students/coe-graduate-student-writing-studio)

- **CAPS**: Center for Academic Program Support – Writing and ELL support for both Undergraduate and Graduate students, Tutoring for core undergraduate courses (such as biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and languages), ESL Conversation Group. 3rd floor Zimmerman Library,
  Call 277-7205 or visit their website at [http://caps.unm.edu](http://caps.unm.edu)

- **OSET**: Office of Support for Effective Teaching – Teaching Assistant Resource Center (part of CASTL), Scholes Hall Room 250; call 277-2229 or visit their website: [http://www.unm.edu/~oset/](http://www.unm.edu/~oset/)

- **ITARC**: International Teaching Assistant Resource Center; course offered through the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) to help international TAs with the language and academic expectations in the US classroom. Visit their website for more information: [http://ogs.unm.edu/resources/tarc.html](http://ogs.unm.edu/resources/tarc.html)

- **GRC**: The Graduate Resource Center (GRC) offers a wide array of free academic support services to all graduate and professional students at the University of New Mexico. Visit their website for more information: [http://unmgrc.unm.edu/](http://unmgrc.unm.edu/)

- **T.A. and professors**: Help with specific courses

- **Departments**: Some departments offer tutoring for their classes, check with the individual department