



Academic Culture & Tips for Success in the U.S.A.

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Topics

- Your experiences in the classroom
- Classroom etiquette
- Study tips
- Questions

Please
discuss
this
question
with a
partner:

What have you
noticed so far
about learning
in the U.S.?
What's different
to you?

University Class Formats

Lectures
25 – 600 students



Discussion Sections
20 – 35 students



Labs



20 – 35 students

What is the purpose of office hours?

Office hours are times where you can talk with your instructor or TA about:

- *Issues you are having in class (course material, problem with classmate, etc.)*
- *Issues you have outside of class that might interfere with your in-class participation*
- *A time to learn how to improve*
- *Ok to just go in to have informal chat*



How to e-mail university faculty and staff

Send **B** *I* U ~~ABC~~ **A** **ABC** **ABC** **ABC** Attach Picture Hyperlink Low Priority

To: Skyler.Smith@wisc.edu

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Request to meet outside of office hours

Dear Professor Smith,

I am a student in your Com Arts 100 class (MWF 9:55-10:45AM CST). I'm not available during your scheduled office hours this week, but I do have questions about next week's assignment. Can we schedule another time to meet for this purpose?

I am available on Wednesday afternoon after 2pm CST, or Friday before noon CST. Please let me know what works best for you.

Sincerely,
Bucky Badger

Academic Culture and Study Tips

- Read the course description and syllabus carefully.
 - *Make sure you understand your instructor's expectations.*
- Stay connected with your academic advisor(s)
 - *Meet at least 1-2 times a semester (more often for graduate students)*
- Keep up with daily homework. Do not expect to be able to turn in homework, essays, or projects late.

Academic Integrity

- Proper Citations are very important
 - *Use the appropriate style manual (APA, MLA, etc)*
 - *When in doubt, ask an instructor*
- Only collaborate with other students when allowed
- Instructors expect original work

Some examples of academic misconduct include plagiarism, cheating, copying homework, and stealing an exam or course materials. The University of Wisconsin-Madison takes academic misconduct allegations very seriously. (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct/>)

Study Tip #1: Manage your time well

- Get enough sleep
- Eat enough meals
- Attend class
- For every credit hour of class, you can expect to spend 2-3 hours outside of the classroom studying
 - Reading, Writing papers, Preparing
 - Depends on the course



Study Tip #2: Get organized

- Use a calendar system (Google, iCal, Outlook) to make a schedule of assignments, quizzes, and tests
- Use alerts on your phone to set reminders for due dates
- Complete daily homework on time
- Don't "cram" in an "all-nighter"



Study Tip #3: Learning Best Practices

- Screen fatigue is REAL
 - Take frequent breaks from screens
 - Rest your eyes
- Get outside (sunlight is good for you)
- Know your mental health resources
 - University Health Services (uhs.wisc.edu)



Try different things and find what works best for you. Be patient and kind with yourself.

Graduate Student Professional Development

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development coordinates **skill-building programs** in a variety of areas and partners with units across campus to offer hundreds of events each year. Skill areas include:

- Inquiry, discovery, and creation
- Disciplinary expertise and interdisciplinary connections
- Leadership
- Career development
- Managing projects and people
- Communication
- Diversity and inclusion
- Personal and interpersonal effectiveness

DiscoverPD is an online tool, developed for UW–Madison master’s and doctoral students, that prompts users to assess their confidence across various competencies. It generates a custom report with recommendations for improvement.

Individual Development Plans help you reflect, plan, and discuss in order to achieve your academic and professional goals. Paired with an IDP, DiscoverPD provides students the means to plan their time in graduate school, as well as a vocabulary to describe the skills gained through graduate study.

Learn more at grad.wisc.edu/professional-development.

Campus Resources

Undergraduate Academic Advising Support
advising.wisc.edu

Graduate School Support
grad.wisc.edu

Writing Center

- writing.wisc.edu
- *Writing workshops*
- *One-on-one support*

GUTS (Greater University Tutoring Services)

- guts.wisc.edu
- *Tutoring*
- *Conversation partners*

Libraries

- library.wisc.edu
- *Virtual Consultation*
- *Library by Appointment*

University Health Services

- uhs.wisc.edu
- *Mental wellness*

Recreation and Wellbeing

- recwell.wisc.edu
- *Physical health*

Computer and Tech Support

- it.wisc.edu

ISS (International Student Services)

- iss.wisc.edu

ESL (English as a Second Language)

- esl.wisc.edu



QUESTIONS?

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