

## The Right Attitude

### Be prepared:

- Get to class on time, don't leave early, and don't miss classes!
- Read texts before class—formulate questions to have clarified.
- Review notes before and after class.
- Do problems, brainstorm, outline!

### Be engaged in class:

- Listen actively, take notes, ask questions.

### Ask for help:

- Visit instructors during office hours with questions/concerns.
- Get peer tutoring and writing assistance.
- Get a study buddy or form a study group.

### Be organized:

- Develop a time management plan.
- Hand in work on time and don't miss exams.
- Schedule time for assignments, tests, projects.
- Schedule study time—2 hours of study for each hour in class.
- Remember: a 15-credit semester load equals a full-time job (30 hours of study).

### Get involved:

- But be sure to balance social life, work, classes, and study.

### Stay healthy, exercise, and get plenty of sleep!



## Important Resources

### Center for Student Success and Engagement

- **Academic Support**, Eldridge Hall, Upper Level, Ext. 5314/5309
  - Academic advising
  - Peer tutors: Tutor Exchange Network
  - Placement testing (foreign languages)
  - Support for math and science: Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders and STEM Associates
  - Support for writing: Writing Associates
- **Disability Services**, Eldridge Hall, Upper Level, Ext. 5318
  - Reasonable accommodations
- **Advising Services**, Eldridge Hall, Upper Level, Ext. 5400
  - Absence from class; leave of absence from college
  - Academic advising and probation advising
  - Change of major or advisor
  - Withdrawal from college
- **Career Services**, Eldridge Hall, Upper Level, Ext. 5332
  - Career information and counseling
  - Graduate school information
  - Internships
  - Job search preparation
  - On-campus and off-campus employment
  - Study away and abroad programs

### Financial

- **Financial Aid**, Eldridge Hall, Main Level, Ext. 5219
- **Student Accounts**, Eldridge Hall, Main Level, Ext. 5230

### Student Records

- **Registrar**, Eldridge Hall, Main Level, Ext. 5216

### Health and Wellness

- **Health Services**, Wellness Center, Ext. 5421
- **Counseling Services**, Wellness Center, Ext. 5331

# MCLA

My College. Right from the Start.

## High School vs. College: Know the Difference

➤➤➤ A Guide for First-Year Students



### Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

The public liberal arts college of Massachusetts—located in the Berkshires  
[www.mcla.edu](http://www.mcla.edu)

## Responsibilities as a Student

IN HIGH SCHOOL Supported by teachers	IN COLLEGE Self-directed
Attendance required in all classes, but there are more allowed absences.	Three excused absences is standard; excessive absenteeism or tardiness may result in lowered grade or having to withdraw from class.
Teachers give structured assignments, reminders, may allow make-up work, guide research.	Professors expect students to interpret assignments, may not allow make-up work; students expected to complete assignments, take tests on time, possess library and internet research skills, find information and conduct research independently.
Teachers give warning notices, detention, recommend suspension.	Classroom discipline is not as strict, but professors assume students will pay attention and behave appropriately in class, since students are now paying for courses.
Teachers usually require less than one hour of homework per class per night; often provide in-class study time.	Students should study 2-3 hours for each one hour of class time, use study areas on campus, and create a study area in their residence hall.



## Classes

IN HIGH SCHOOL Classes Focused on Learning	IN COLLEGE Classes Focused on Course Content
Teachers tell students what to learn and how to study.	Students determine what to learn and know how to study using their own methods.
Teachers give short lectures <b>based on</b> assigned reading, summarizing main ideas.	Professors present extended lectures that <b>build on</b> assigned readings. Students identify main ideas.
Limited to 30 or fewer students.	Both small "seminars" and lecture-based for 30 or more students.
Classes meet daily.	Classes meet 2-3 times per week.
Teachers focus student learning with questions.	Professors expect students to listen and generate questions.
Teachers cover all content in class.	Students are responsible for all material whether or not it is presented in class.
Teachers decide how students should be organized (binders, etc.)	Students develop their own systems of organization for assignments and notes (notebooks/folders, agenda/planners, etc.).
Teachers provide extra help.	Students meet with faculty for further academic assistance during instructor office hours. Students also seek help from peer tutors, Writing Associates, STEM Associates, and Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders.

## Tests and Grades

IN HIGH SCHOOL More Tests	IN COLLEGE Fewer Exams
Teachers often use true/false, multiple choice, and short answer test formats.	Professors give complex exam questions requiring analysis, application, and synthesis of ideas and theories using multiple choice and essay formats.
Teachers give frequent tests and provide make-up tests and re-takes.	Professors often give fewer tests (2-3 per semester) and may or may not allow for make-ups or retakes.
Grades are based on quality, completion, and effort given to assignment.	Grades reflect the quality of the product and adherence to college-level thinking and writing.
Teachers offer extra-credit opportunities to improve grades.	Professors may or may not offer extra credit.
Teachers track student performance.	Students are responsible for monitoring their own progress.

## Help and Guidance

IN HIGH SCHOOL My Teachers Provide Direction	IN COLLEGE In Charge of My Own Learning
Students have daily contact with teachers, get regular feedback.	Students have more limited contact with teachers after class, must seek feedback.
Teachers and parents direct academic accommodations, services for students with special needs.	Students seek out academic accommodations and special assistance through self advocacy.
Friends and family support students.	Students attending college away from home need to create a new support system.