

Adjusting to College

What to expect your first semester of Community College

Congratulations!

- Enrolling in your first semester of community college marks an important milestone in your professional career.
- Building your academic accomplishments and technical skills creates the springboard for your future working endeavors.
- However, for many students, the first semester of community college is not met with flying colors.
- Therefore, it is important to understand what to expect in your first semester of community college; this will help with supporting your transition and long-term academic success.



Choose the appropriate classes

Add	Code	Name	on SPIDER?	On SPIDER list?	in myClasses
	13252	Organic Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
	13253	Thermodynamics and Kinetics	✓	✓	✓
	13255	Stereochemistry and Interpretative Spectroscopy	✓	✓	✓
	13256	Handling Chemical Data	✓	✓	✓
	13260	-	✗	✗	✗
	13278	Inorganic Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
	13291	Practical Organic and Inorganic Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	14263	Chemical Technology	✓	✗	✓
	MA111	Mathematics 1B	✓	✓	✓
	MA112	Mathematics 2B	✓	✓	✓

add

- Carefully evaluate your academic abilities- as well as your long-term interests- to determine what your first semester course load should be.
- If you are looking to transfer to a 4-year institution from community college, your first semester curriculum may be different than the student who is planning to enter into the workforce with an Associate's degree.
- If you are not planning to transfer to a 4- year institution, it is important that you still plan to fulfill the pre-requisites for your major, ensuring that you can graduate and enter the workforce on time.

Do not overestimate your level of academic preparation



- Many students become discouraged in their first semester because they overestimated their level of preparation- thus, not performing as academically well as they anticipated.
- You must be willing to commit to your education to succeed- which means attending all your classes, reading the course literature, participating in discussions, and studying for exams.
- Your class grade may be based on only 2 elements much unlike high school grades that were based on many elements such as tests, projects, homework etc.

Balance your work, personal obligations, and school commitments

- If you work or have personal obligations, adjusting to your first semester of community college requires you to carefully plan your schedule- both formally and informally.
- Create a calendar that maps out your specific time commitments, including work and class schedules.
- Allocate time slots for all of your academic tasks, such as reading course literature, attending a study group, or preparing for your mid-terms.



Planning for social commitments

- An exciting element of community college is the social interaction whether it be within the various clubs and organizations, you can easily find friends who share your interests.
- Many new incoming students become overwhelmed with the social activities.
- Treat your social events like your work, personal, and academic responsibilities – meaning that you carefully plan your time based upon these commitments.



College is meant to be both fun and engaging, and when you plan your time, you can enjoy the social, academic, and professional rewards.



Make your first semester count!