

# Freshman year is *NOT* grade 13!

*It's important to recognize the differences between high school and college expectations.  
This can make a BIG impact on your first year!*

The University of Delaware's Office of Academic Enrichment (OAE) can assist you as you learn about this new environment, helping you strengthen your existing strategies and develop new ones.

Visit our webpage ([ae.udel.edu](http://ae.udel.edu)) or stop by our office to learn more about our services:

- Study skills classes
- Study skills workshops, online and in person
- Academic Intake appointments (on-on-one review of your current strategies)
- Tutoring

Look  
Out !!

| HIGH SCHOOL   | COLLEGE  |
|---|--|
| <b>INSTRUCTORS</b>  |  |
| Check your completed homework   | May not review completed homework, but will assume you have mastered it for exams  |
| Remind you of incomplete work   | May not remind you of incomplete work  |
| Approach you if they think you need help  | Expect you to initiate contact if you need help  |
| Are often available before/during/after class for questions                     | You must come to their office hours or set up an appointment   |
| Have been trained in teaching methods   | Are experts in their fields, but may not be trained as teachers  |
| Provide you with information you miss when absent                               | Expect you to get notes from others when you've missed class   |
| Present material to help you understand the textbook                            | May not follow the text; expect you to read it before class, relate class to readings  |
| Often write information on the board to be copied as your notes                 | Expect you to decide what needs to be written down; Power-Points, etc., may augment lecture material, but do not cover the detail needed from the lecture itself |
| Help you make connections and process material; supply facts                    | Expect you to think about/synthesize seemingly unrelated topics  |
| Often remind you of assignments and due dates                                   | Assume you will follow the syllabus (has due dates)  |
| <b>CLASSES</b>  |  |
| Go from morning through afternoon, one after the other                          | Class times are different from day to day, often in evenings   |
| 30 hours a week in class  | 15-18 hours a week in class; schedules may seem lighter than they are  |
| Most of your classes are arranged for you                                       | You arrange your own schedule, with the help of your advisor   |
| Teachers carefully monitor attendance   | Professors generally do not take attendance  |
| Usually have no more than 35 students   | Can have as many as 300 students   |
| Textbooks are provided  | You must purchase textbooks; they can be very expensive  |
| You are generally not responsible for knowing what classes you need to graduate | Graduation requirements are complex and differ from major to major: you are responsible for knowing your requirements  |

## Office of Academic Enrichment (OAE)

148-150 S. College Ave; 302/831-4555

[ae.udel.edu](http://ae.udel.edu)

| <b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>   | <b>COLLEGE</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>STUDYING</b>  |   |
| Usually a few hours a week   | Expect to spend 2-3 hours <i>per credit</i> every week  |
| Knowledge of material is usually not too detailed, hard to remember: one time may be enough    | You need to review notes and text material regularly, on an ongoing basis, and do something to make it your own |
| You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed (often re-taught) in class  | Substantial reading, writing is required; it may not even be brought up in class                                |
| <b>EXAMS</b>   |   |
| Testing is frequent, covers small amounts of material  | Usually only 2-3 exams; may be cumulative; covers large amount of material                                      |
| Teachers often prepare you for exams with study sheets, etc.                                   | Professors expect you to organize the material to prepare for exams   |
| Makeup exams are often available   | Makeup exams are rarely available; must be requested  |
| Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events                  | Professors usually schedule exams without regard to demands of other courses, activities                        |
| Success on exams depends on remembering facts, providing information as it was provided to you | Success on exams requires applying what you've learned to real situations or to solve new kinds of problems     |
| <b>GRADING</b>   |   |
| Most assigned work is graded   | Grades are limited to major projects, exams   |
| Extra credit projects can help raise a grade   | Extra credit is not generally available   |
| Guiding principle: effort counts   | Guiding principle: results count  |
| <b>GETTING HELP</b>  |   |
| Someone sees you need it, and gives it to you (whether or not you want it)                     | You have to reach out for it; even if someone sees you need it, they respect your choice not to seek it         |
| You are led to the right resources   | You have to find the right resources by asking questions and following leads                                    |
| <b>PERSONAL FREEDOM</b>  |   |
| School is mandatory and free   | School is voluntary and expensive   |
| Time planned by others   | You manage your own time  |
| Parents/teachers remind you of responsibilities, set your priorities                           | You must balance your responsibilities, set your own priorities   |
| Parents/teachers correct your behavior, may minimize consequences of bad decisions             | You must take responsibility for your actions (or inaction), facing the consequences yourself                   |

## Office of Academic Enrichment (OAE)

148-150 S. College Ave; 302/831-4555

ae.udel.edu