



## TOP 10 MISCONCEPTIONS STUDENTS HAVE ABOUT COLLEGE

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**1. *The most important thing that I have to do is get a good grade in a class, regardless of whether I really learned the material.***

Getting a good grade is wonderful. However, many courses (especially in your major) have successive classes that will build upon material that you are supposed to learn in a previous class. If you received a high grade in a previous class without mastering the material, you may find that you will struggle in the successive classes. For example, the course “Differential Equations” builds on material from “Calculus III” which builds on “Calculus II” > “Calculus” > “Pre-Calculus” > “College Algebra”. In this example, if you fail to master the material through Calculus II, then the course “Differential Equations” could be extremely challenging.

**2. *My grade in one class will not affect my grade in another class.***

Your grades in one class can definitely affect your grades in another class. Take the example from above: the course “Differential Equations” builds on material from “Calculus II” which builds on “Calculus II” etc. If you barely pass “Calculus II” with a grade of a “C” or even a “D” without mastering the material, then it is highly unlikely that you will advance easily through “Calculus III.”

**3. *It is my professor’s responsibility to teach me what I need to know.***

Contrary to what most students think, a professor’s role is to be a guide who outlines the course material and highlights the important points. It is **your** responsibility to keep up with the course material on your own, ask the professor to clarify what you do not understand, and learn the material yourself.

**4. *Everything on an exam will have been written on the board or covered by the professor in the lecture.***

Unfortunately, this is not so!! The lecture and notes given in class or on the board are undoubtedly important, but by no means are they the only things you need to know. As a college student, you are responsible for the COURSE MATERIAL, not just the in-class material. If you are unsure about what an exam will cover, always ask your professor well in advance of the exam.

**5. *My professor will pass me because I gave it my best effort.***

Many students would like to believe this, but it’s not the case. Professors need to prepare you for the real world. The real world, especially the working world, expects results. If you cannot produce the required results, you will be removed from your job.

**6. *My professor will grant me extra time or be lenient if I have an excuse that was beyond my control (i.e., a power outage caused me to lose my term paper or my child was sick)***

Whether or not a professor grants you extra time depends on how the professor feels about the situation. Students need to be aware that although few professors may allow extra time or be lenient in

special cases, they are NOT required to do so. If you find a generous professor, please be sure to thank them for their kindness!!

**7. *If I get tutoring or do my assignments, that is all the study time I need.***

Completing assignments and receiving tutoring (if you need it) should assist you in mastering the course material, but in general it is NOT the only study time you need.

**8. *Classes will be easier in the summer because course material is cut out due to less time.***

Exactly the opposite is true!! Courses in the summer tend to be more difficult because you will get the SAME amount of material in a shorter time. The Fall and Spring semesters are about 15 weeks long, whereas the Summer term classes are anywhere from 4 to 8 weeks long. This means that courses in the summer will progress faster, the classes may even be longer in length, and may meet 4 or 5 days a week.

**9. *It is the responsibility of the university staff or my advisor to make sure I am on the right track (i.e., taking the right courses) towards graduation.***

According to the College Catalog, "It is the student's responsibility to schedule needed courses, establish prerequisites where necessary, and plan ahead so that all requirements for their degree will be fulfilled".

**10. *A college education will guarantee that I get a job.***

Unfortunately, a college education by itself cannot guarantee employment. Finding employment will depend upon many factors, and your education is only one of those.