

SNAPSHOT

CAWG

of
Student Experiences

Behavior and Responsibility
in the Classroom

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
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APRIL

This Campus Assessment Working Group (CAWG) Snapshot is based on a survey conducted each spring. The Assessing Campus Experiences Subgroup (ACES) administers the University of Maryland Student Survey (UMSS) to juniors and seniors. The most recent version was administered in Professional Writing classes in Spring 2010. Of 2,304 students enrolled in Professional Writing, 2,082 (90%) completed the survey, yielding 1,762 usable responses. Use caution when generalizing.

Highlights:

- ◆ 82% of respondents attend class most consistently to get a good grade.
- ◆ 51% of respondents always or often ask questions in class, when possible.
- ◆ 56% of respondents report that asking for feedback on coursework is their responsibility.

Why do students attend class?

Top reasons respondents attend class consistently:	%	Top reasons respondents do not attend class consistently:	%
Have to attend to get a good grade	82	Get material outside of class	46
Interested in course material	60	Do not have to attend to get a good grade	42
Like the instructor	51	Class not interesting	40
Enjoy class	46	Not interested in course material	34
Attendance is taken	41	Do not like instructor	20

For the class that respondents consistently attend MOST often:

- ◆ 74% reported this course is a lecture;
- ◆ 67% expected to get an "A";
- ◆ 76% reported the course is for their major;
- ◆ 60% of respondents rarely/never used electronic devices for things other than coursework while in class.

For the class that respondents consistently attend LEAST often:

- ◆ 84% reported this course is a lecture;
- ◆ 52% expected to get an "A";
- ◆ 50% reported the course is for their major;
- ◆ 43% of respondents rarely/never used electronic devices for things other than coursework while in class.

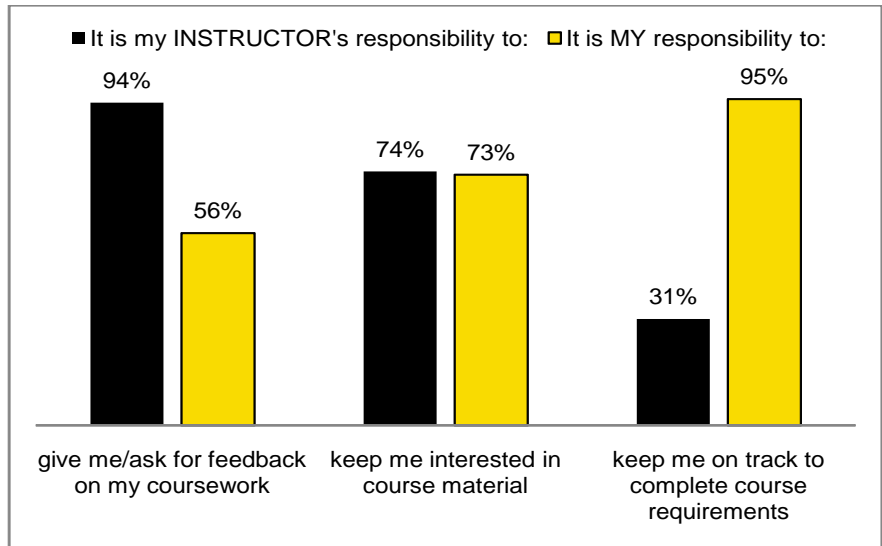
Question to consider:

How can we encourage students to view coursework outside their major as an integral part of their undergraduate degree?

Who is responsible?

Respondents were asked if it is their responsibility and/or their instructors' responsibility to do the following (see bar graph).

- ◆ 95% of respondents report that staying on track to complete course requirements is their responsibility. Yet, only 56% of respondents report that asking for feedback on coursework is their responsibility.
- ◆ 27% of respondents are neutral or disagree that keeping them interested in course material is their responsibility.



How do students behave in the classroom?

Please indicate how often you do the following:	Never (%)	Rarely (%)	Often (%)	Always (%)
I turn in all required assignments on time.	0	1	29	69
I attend classes.	0	1	35	63
I take notes in class.	1	9	38	52
If I miss a class, I make sure to talk with my professor or another student to discuss the material I missed.	4	19	39	38
When possible, I participate in group work in class.	1	10	54	34
When possible, I participate in activities in class.	1	14	55	29
When possible, I participate in discussions in class.	2	28	52	19
When possible, I ask questions in class.	6	43	38	13
I arrive late or leave early from class.	37	55	7	1
In general, I use electronic devices in class to do things OTHER THAN coursework.	19	47	26	7

- Most respondents “always” or “often”:
- ◆ turn in all required assignments on time (99%);
 - ◆ attend classes (99%);
 - ◆ take notes in class (90%);
 - ◆ when possible, participate in group work (89%) and activities (85%) in class.
- Similarly, respondents “never” or “rarely”:
- ◆ arrive late or leave early from class (92%);
 - ◆ use electronic devices in class to do things other than coursework (67%).

- Conversely, fewer respondents “always” or “often”:
- ◆ participate in discussions (70%), or ask questions (50%) in class, when possible.

Question to consider:

How can we encourage students to ask questions and participate in discussions during class? Why do respondents engage in these behaviors less often than they take notes or work in groups?