

## YOUR SUCCESS AT COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY OR WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The faculty and staff are glad you have elected to attend Colorado Mesa University or Western Colorado Community College and want you to succeed in achieving your academic goals. The following information is shared with you to enhance the likelihood that you will be successful.

### 1. **Attend class.**

Institutional research shows that class attendance and participation are closely linked to your success as a student (i.e., the better your attendance, the better your grade is likely to be). When you are always present, you will understand the course content and how it contributes to your growth as a college student. You are required to attend this class regularly, adhering to the attendance policy established in this course syllabus by your instructor. Additionally, you should review the Attendance Policy of the institution's [Catalog](#) for further details on expectations. For online courses, check with your instructor and/or class syllabus for expectations delivered in that format.

### 2. **Prepare for and participate in class.**

It takes more than showing up for class to succeed. You need to be prepared to actively participate in class. Your instructor has given you a schedule of course topics for the semester, along with readings and/or activities that should be completed prior to coming to class. If you aren't clear about these expectations, talk with your instructor. In general, you should follow the 2:1 rule: two hours of study/homework time for every 1 hour of classroom time. This can vary some from week to week, but on average, most instructors will assume you are putting in the time and keeping pace with the class. So make the effort to stay current and don't leave everything to the end of the term.

By meeting deadlines and managing your time wisely, you will get much more from the class and earn higher grades. Assume that faculty members will not accept late homework and don't offer extra credit assignments. Some may – and by reviewing the syllabus you will know their policies – but instructors have no obligation to do so. A final note. If you need help with study skills, time management, note-taking and the like, consider registering for SUPP 101, a course that helps first-year students with their transition to college life.

### 3. **Use technology to support your success.**

All members of this class are expected to show respect to each other and to contribute to a positive academic learning environment of the class. Please turn off cellphones or set them to silent when you are in class. Text messaging, checking email, working on social networking sites, and performing non-class related activities on any electronic device (cell phone, laptop, iPad, etc.) is disruptive and not acceptable behavior during the class session. Check your course syllabus for the consequence of using these devices during class time.

### 4. **Take advantage of campus resources.**

We offer numerous academic support resources to help you. The staff of [Tomlinson Library](#) can assist you with finding information resources either in person or online. The [Tutorial Learning Center](#) offers *free, walk-in* tutoring for a wide variety of subjects. Maybe it's just a math problem that's not making sense, or perhaps having a peer take a look at your assignment is what you need. The TLC can help with the smallest issue or provide you with tutoring if you have a particularly challenging course. Get help before a small problem becomes a big one. Stop by and see the services they offer, most of which are provided by other students. If your semester gets a little overwhelming, contact the [Office of Student Services](#) for assistance. Need to engage in some activity outside of classes? Stop by the [Maverick Center](#) for a good workout, or find students with some similar interests by joining a [student club](#).

## 5. Build relationships with your instructors, advisor, and other students.

- a. Your best guidance for success will come from your instructors, and research tells us that your interactions with faculty members is the most important determinate in college success. Instructors genuinely want you to be successful and will do what they can to help you reach your goals. Locate their contact information on the syllabus and store that information in your phone. Each instructor keeps office hours that they set aside to meet with students. If you cannot meet during their office hours, schedule an appointment in advance.
- b. Plan to meet with your advisor at least once a semester. At a minimum, consult with your advisor on your schedule for the next semester before registration opens. Popular required courses fill quickly, so if you delay registration, you might not get your preferred courses and could possibly delay your graduation. Advisors provide valuable assistance in determining which courses you need to take for your degree and the best order to take courses. Advisors can also direct you to the most appropriate networks when you are in need of assistance.

If you do not know the name of your advisor, log into MAVzone:

<https://cas.coloradomesa.edu/mavzone> and click on the Student Academics tab. Scroll down the Academic Profile column to Advisors; directly email your advisor by clicking on the envelope icon.

- c. Connect with other students in all your classes. You and your peers have similar goals and will face similar challenges; this can help you feel less alone in solving problems. Being active in a study group can enrich your understanding of course materials and can provide extra motivation and support to succeed. Learn more about the value of creating a study group at *Fight for First Year in College: Form Study Groups* at: [http://www.academictips.org/acad/first\\_y\\_i\\_c/formstudygroups.html](http://www.academictips.org/acad/first_y_i_c/formstudygroups.html)

## 6. Use financial aid wisely.

Be aware that your decisions about attending class and considering whether to add or drop a class can affect your financial aid. Discuss potential changes with your advisor before making them. You must complete at least 12 credit hours each semester to be considered full-time, often a requirement to receive financial aid. Part-time students should check with the [Office of Financial Aid](#) for credit hour requirements. Audited classes do not count for enrollment purposes.

To retain your aid for the next term, you are required to make satisfactory academic progress toward your degree and maintain the following minimum grade point averages below. **If you receive all F's for one term, you will be suspended from financial aid and must repay all Title IV funds.**

Cumulative Credit Hours Earned	Minimum GPA
1 to 15	1.70
16 to 30	1.80
31 to 45	1.90
46+	2.00

To remain eligible to receive financial aid, students must be successfully completing 75% of classes attempted. Aid will be suspended until the student successfully increases the completion rate to 75%. Be sure to report any changes in your enrollment, residency status, or receipt of additional resources in writing to the Office of Financial Aid. Financial aid is not available if you have not graduated from your program but exceed the total undergraduate cumulative hours as show below.

Baccalaureate degree:	170 hours
Associate degree:	80 hours
One-year certificate:	40 hours