

High School vs. College Accountability and Responsibilities

In college, you are responsible for your own actions and your own course performance. It is your responsibility to monitor your progress and discuss your performance with your professors in a timely manner. Professors expect you to always try your best, submit your best work, be on time, and be prepared for class.

By law, professors cannot respond to correspondence about your performance from anyone except you. No one, not even your parent, guardian or spouse, can ask your professors for explanations about why you received a grade on an assignment or your overall course progress. It does not matter who pays your tuition or who signed you up for courses.

Meeting with Professors

Always arrange to meet with your professor, as soon as you realize that you are struggling to understand course material or have questions about grades. Do not wait until almost the end of the semester to ask for help because it will be too late to make up what you missed. Professors almost never give extra credit if a student has not done the work all semester.

“How do I meet with my professor?”

Every professor has preferred ways of setting up meetings. Check your syllabi and ask on the first day of class. Professors meet students during office hours and (sometimes) by appointment outside of regular hours. Making an appointment guarantees the professor will be available to meet with you. Always have all of your materials and exact questions ready so you can have a productive meeting.

Plagiarizing, Cheating, and Overall Academic Integrity

It is your responsibility to be aware of HCC's rules and standards of academic integrity (also referred to online as “scholastic dishonesty”). Not knowing them does not absolve you from the repercussions of committing violations. If you are unclear about any of HCC's definitions of academic integrity, it is your responsibility to discuss these with someone, such as a professor or counselor.

Explanation and Website

High school students are not expelled for plagiarizing or any other form of cheating, but college students can be expelled from the course and the college. At the very least, you will likely

receive a zero for the assignment. Some professors seek judicial action through the Dean of Student Services.

Refer to HCC's "Student Procedures" page and student handbook to familiarize yourself with examples of cheating and definitions for "plagiarism" and "collusion." In short, scholastic dishonesty involves not doing your own work by yourself and trying to pass off work and ideas by other people as your own. The site also gives information about procedures and outcomes to academic violations: <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/>.

No Refunds

Failing a course or expulsion from a course or the college does not entitle you to a refund. Refunds only apply to dropping a course before the semester begins or very early in the term. Grade performance is never a factor in receiving any sort of refund for tuition and books.

Dual Credit Students

All of this applies to you, too. Whether you attend courses on an HCC campus or stay on your high school campus, you are a college student for that course period. Federal law regarding privacy and accountability follows the institution, not the age of the student. If you are enrolled in a college course, you are a college student and are held to the legal and scholastic standards of a college student. An "embedded instructor" is a high school teacher who also teaches dual credit courses for HCC. During the dual credit class periods, the teacher is an HCC instructor and is under the jurisdiction of the college and federal law relating to colleges.

The grades you receive for your college courses are also the grades recorded on your high school transcript. This is why the course is called "dual credit." You are taking college courses that also count towards high school credits. You are not taking advanced high school courses for college credit hours. If you fail a dual credit course, you will not receive college credit on your high school transcript. You might have to enroll in credit recovery, and you might not be able to graduate from high school on time.

This information was compiled and written for Houston Community College students using online tutoring. This is the intellectual property of Houston Community College.