Academic Success
Expectations in the Classroom:

The challenge for instructors in any classroom setting is to earn the respect of students. In addition, the challenge for students is to develop trust. The following expectations, if met, will lead to both the instructor earning respect and the student developing trust – two key elements for learning to take place.

- Attend – believe it or not, non-attendance is the most common mistake students make!
- Sit up front and pay attention. You will be amazed at what you learn and you will get to know the instructor.
- Get to know your instructor – make eye contact, ask questions, hold conversations, let the instructor get to know you!
- Take all exams and quizzes. Don’t skip an exam expecting to make it up later. Most instructors do not allow for make-up exams.
- Turn in all assignments on time – late work can cost you a grade.
- Come prepared – read all assignments, chapters and articles in advance. Then you will be prepared to participate in discussion and will understand lecture material much better.
- Be respectful – turn off phones, iPods, etc.
- Actively participate – ask questions, add your comments and let your voice be heard! Bring your real-life experiences to the classroom.
- Challenge yourself to learn – isn’t that why you are attending university? Be open to new ideas.
- Plan to spend the adequate time to learn difficult concepts and material – don’t cheat yourself out of knowledge.
- Mentally review after class. What questions do you still have?
- Teaching Assistants (TA) or Graduate Assistants (GA) for your class are another resource for you. They are available if you have questions about the material.
Test Taking Tips

Arrive Early and Come Prepared – Bring everything you need with you such as pens, a calculator, and scratch paper and allow yourself enough time to get comfortable and relaxed before the test begins.

Stay Relaxed and Confident – Don’t become anxious. Remind yourself that you are well prepared. Take slow, deep breaths if you become anxious before or during the test.

Be Comfortable but Alert – Make sure you have enough room to work and maintain an upright posture in your seat.

Preview the Test – Spend a few minutes reviewing the test. Look for key terms and decide how to budget your time. While reviewing the test, take brief notes indicating ideas you can use later in your answers.

Answer the Questions in a Strategic Order – Answer the easy questions first. Then answer the questions with the highest point value. The last questions you should answer are those that are the most difficult, take the greatest amount of writing, or have the least point value.

Multiple Choice Tests: Know when to Guess – Eliminate answers you know are wrong. If there is no penalty for guessing, do so. Start by eliminating options. Your first choice is usually correct, so don’t change your answer unless you are sure of the correction.

Essay Tests: Think Before You Write – Create a brief outline for your essay by jotting down a few words to indicate ideas you want to address. Then number the items in your list to indicate the order in which you will discuss them.

Essay Tests: Get Right to the Point – State your main point in the first sentence. Use your first paragraph to provide an overview of your essay. Use the rest of your essay to discuss these points in more detail. Back up your points with specific information, examples, or quotations. Conclude your essay with a brief summary of your main point.

Review Your Answers – Review your test. Make sure you have answered all the questions. Proofread your writing for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Check your math answers for careless mistakes. Match your actual answers for math problems against estimates.
Academic Resources

Academic Advising -- http://academicadvising.boisestate.edu/ Boise State University is committed to providing high quality academic and career advising to students in all academic programs and recognizes academic and career advising as an integral part of your educational experience. Get to know your advisor and let your advisor get to know you! It will be one of the most beneficial relationships you will develop on campus. Check your MyBoiseState Student Center to see the name of the advisor for your major, or contact Advising and Academic Enhancement at 426-4049.

Albertsons Library -- The website http://library.boisestate.edu links to most library information resources including the library catalog, databases, online journals, and reference sources.

Library Regular Hours
Monday–Thursday 7:00 am–midnight  
Friday 7:00 am–7:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am–7:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am–midnight  
Finals Week 24 Hours

Summer, holiday and break hours vary. Please see the current calendar on the Library website.

Counseling Services -- http://healthservices.boisestate.edu/services/counseling  
Counseling Services provides a broad spectrum of counseling, consultative, evaluative, teaching, training and research functions. Our staff includes masters level licensed counselors, doctoral level licensed psychologists, and pre- and post-masters level interns. 426-1459

Disability Resource Center -- http://drc.boisestate.edu/ The Disability Resource Center is responsible for ensuring that Boise State University maintains an educationally and physically open, accessible environment for students with disabilities. The office is located in the Administration Building, Room 114. You can also reach the DRC by phone at 426-1583.

English Language Support Services -- http://englishsupport.boisestate.edu/ Free one-on-one ESL tutoring available for English language learners. Flexible hours are negotiable. 426-1189

Grading System -- Boise State University uses a plus/minus grading system on a 4.0 grading scale. For more information about the grading system, consult the Registrar's Office, Admin Building, Room 110, 426-4980 or http://registrar.boisestate.edu.

Math Learning Center -- http://math.boisestate.edu/math-learning-center/ Since the inception of the Math Learning Center, we have significantly increased the passing rates of our students through the use of technology. With recent advances in both educational theory and technology, we feel that it is possible to further increase our passing rates. 426-2561
Schedule of Classes -- Course listings are available on MyBoiseState, or you can view the Registrar’s Schedule of Classes. You may also add and drop classes on MyBoiseState during your registration period. Contact the MyBoiseState Help Center, Administration Building, Room 110, 426-2932, if you need help with viewing the schedule. If you need assistance in selecting your classes visit your faculty advisor or an academic advisor in the Advising and Academic Enhancement office.

Testing Services -- http://aae.boisestate.edu/testing/ For all testing information, contact University Testing Services at 426-2762. Testing Services offers placements tests for math, English and other subjects. Academic and Career Services Building, Room 115.

Tutoring Services -- http://aae.boisestate.edu/tutoring/ Need some extra help in a class? Check out the tutoring options available to you through Advising & Academic Enhancement, Academic and Career Services Building in Room 114. 426-4049

Writing Center -- http://writingcenter.boisestate.edu/ The Writing Center is a service open to all members of the Boise State community; a place where you can find support for your writing efforts. Our main campus location is in the Liberal Arts Building, Room 200, and the phone number is 426-1298.

Check with your Academic Department for other tutoring availability.