University Information & Policies

Classroom Norms

Many international students find the atmosphere in an American classroom to be more informal than they are used to. Instructors sometimes tolerate behaviors such as eating, drinking, arriving late, or leaving early during the class. These behaviors are never polite, but American students do them sometimes.

Another difference is that in the United States students are expected to participate in class and ask questions of the teacher. They are expected to email the instructor or visit the instructor’s office to ask questions. In fact, it is common for a portion of the student’s grade to be based on his/her participation in class.

Academic Honesty

In the United States, academic honesty is very important. The rules and expectations in the U.S. are much stricter than in many other countries.

These things are not allowed in the U.S.:

- Failure to use citations to give credit for ideas or facts taken from another author.
- Using another author’s exact words without using quotation marks.
- Copying homework assignments from another student.
- Working with another student on homework or a take-home test without permission from the instructor.
- Looking at another student’s paper during an exam.
- Looking at your notes or textbook during an exam without the instructor’s permission.
- Giving your homework to someone else to be copied.
- Giving exam answers to someone else.
- After taking an exam, telling someone else who is taking it later what questions will be asked.
- Writing a paper for another student.
- Submitting a paper that someone else wrote and claiming that it is your own work.

The consequences of violating these policies can be very strong in the U.S. At minimum, you will be required to re-write your work. Often, you will be given a failing grade for that assignment or
for the whole course. These cases are referred to Student Judicial Affairs for review and the incident may be recorded in your academic record. Also, probation or another penalty may be issued. At worst, the student can be expelled from the University.

For more information on Academic Honesty and your rights as a student, please visit Student Judicial Affairs website at www.csuchico.edu/sjd. For questions or concerns, they can be reached by phone: 530-898-6897 or email: sjd@csuchico.edu.