



LaGuardia Community College

Online Orientation Guide

“College Experience & Expectations”





Welcome to

New Student

Online Orientation Guide

College Experience and Expectations

Welcome Back!! In this guide we will give you some tips and things to remember that will help you to get the most out of your college experience here at LaGuardia. You will learn:

- What your responsibilities are as a LaGuardia student.
- Tips for succeeding in classes.
- What to expect from college professors and what they expect from you as a student.
- How the college testing process works.
- How to understand your grades at the college level.
- How to work with your Academic Advisor and remain on track throughout your academic career at LaGuardia.

We wish you success on your academic journey at LaGuardia. **Dare To Do More!**



College Experience and Expectation

Choosing Responsibility In College

- College is voluntary and costs money.
- You manage your own time.
- You must decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
- You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have not been faced with before.
- You will often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend only 12-16 hours each week in class.
- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your academic advisor.
- Graduation requirements differ from major to major. You are expected to meet with advisors and learn what you need to graduate.



You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as the consequences of your decisions.



College Experience and Expectation

Succeeding In Classes

In College

- Classes may have more than 100 students.
- You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours a week outside of class for each class you are taking.
- You need to review class notes, handouts, and text materials regularly.
- You are assigned a substantial amount of reading and writing which may or may not be directly addressed in class.



It is up to you to read and understand the assigned material. Professors assume you have come to class prepared with outside work completed.



College Experience and Expectation

Working With Professors In College

- Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you have completed the assignments and can complete the same tasks on tests.
- Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
- Professors are usually open and helpful, but more expect you to initiate contact if you need help.
- Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.
- Professors expect you to get notes or handouts from classmates if you miss class.
- Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. They also may expect you to relate the class to the readings from the textbook.
- Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes and note taking skills are a must.
- Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
- Professors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus. The syllabus will outline exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
- Professors may not formally take attendance, but they will still know if you attend class or not. They will also know if you are paying attention in class when you are there.



College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.



College Experience and Expectation

The Test Taking Process In College

- Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material at a time. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A course may only have 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
- Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are an option, you must request them.
- Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of your other courses or outside college activities.
- Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant who comes to the review session prepared with questions.



Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or problems.



College Experience and Expectation

Understanding Grades In College

- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
- Grades received on tests and major papers usually make up the majority of your final grade.
- Extra credit projects, generally, can't be used to raise a grade in a college course.
- Watch out for your first tests. These are usually “wake up calls” to let you know what is expected, but they also can count for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades back for your first test or paper.
- You may graduate only if your GPA meets the college or departmental standard—usually a C average or a 2.0 GPA.



Results count. Though good faith effort is important in regards to the professor's willingness to help you achieve good results, it will not substitute for results in the grading process.

Working With Your **Academic Advisor**

Advising is an opportunity for you to talk one-on-one with someone at LaGuardia about your educational and career goals and allows you to begin to build a relationship with that advisor. Advisors help you clarify your personal and professional goals and to understand how the classes at LaGuardia fit into those goals.

Like any relationship, academic advising is a two-way street—your advisor will have expectations of you, just like you will have expectations of him or her. On the following two pages we have provided lists of both advisor and student responsibilities, which will help you prepare for and build a strong relationship with your academic advisor.

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Academic Advisors are one of your greatest resources at LaGuardia. Make sure to meet with them early on and work with them closely as you complete your degree.



Working With Your **Academic Advisor**

Academic Advisors Will

- Understand and clearly communicate degree requirements for the different LaGuardia degrees and certificates
- Convey school policies and procedures
- Adhere to confidentiality guidelines as outlined by FERPA
- Be available to you through scheduled office appointments, scheduled advising hours, group advising workshops and by email and phone during the school year
- Work with you to identify your strengths and interests to help you develop educational goals
- Provide you with information on learning opportunities outside the classroom
- Make appropriate referrals as necessary
- Discuss your academic performance and how it will impact your future career goals
- Listen and respect you as an individual and respect your individual needs, abilities and interests
- Prepare you for and assist with a smooth transition to a 4 year university
- Provide you with accurate information and follow up with you if you have further questions



Working With Your **Academic Advisor**

Students Will

- Become knowledgeable about general education requirements for their degree
- Adhere to the college's policies and procedures and ask questions about them if necessary
- Keep open lines of communication
- Understand that advisors have a variety of responsibilities that impact their availability. Students will try to keep scheduled appointments and cancel with 24 hours notice if possible
- Be open and honest with advisors about strengths, weaknesses, interests and goals
- Be open to opportunities for learning outside the classroom
- Follow up with recommended referrals
- Accept responsibility for academic performance and accept the challenge that comes with college level courses
- Listen and respect the advisor as a professional who has your best interest in mind
- Ask questions and for help at the first sign of concern or difficulty
- Come prepared to meetings and appointments with questions about what was unfamiliar

Check Back Regularly

For More Updates



At LaGuardia we work hard to facilitate the success of our students. Please check back regularly to stay current with all of the newest tools, modules and updates.

We wish you all the best on your academic journey with us.
See you around campus!!

