



The UNIVERSITY of
WEST ALABAMA

Attendance matters [really!]

I don't know about you, but the freedom of my freshman year might have been just a little *too* much for me. I started each class by asking about the attendance policy... then promptly disappearing until the last possible date. I quickly learned that was *not* the way to maximize one's college education.

Sure, it was a nice break from the rigorous attendance requirements of high school, but then I realized why I was here: to get an education. And you can't get that when you're not in class.

Each professor typically has his or her own attendance policy, based on their own assessment of the course work, the length of the term, and the amount of face time required to succeed in learning the subject matter. This is your chance to hear directly from the professor what his or her expectations are for your course work, what you can hope to get out of the class, and what it will take to succeed in the class.

Your tuition pays for these classes, so that's one good reason to actually attend them. Here are just a few more:

- Attending classes gives you a chance to get to know your professor and understand what he or she considers the most important information to study and remember.
- Showing up for classes shows you're engaged in the class, that you're literally here to learn. That may help a little if your final grade comes down to a tenth of a point or two.
- Being in the classroom gives you a chance to hear the questions your classmates are asking... and the answers that go with them.
- Class time also lets you connect with your fellow students, whether you meet a study buddy, connect with a fellow biology major, or make a friend for life.
- Just think how excited your parents will be knowing you're actually getting the full benefit of their tuition investment (or yours).

The best part? It won't hurt a bit to attend a few classes more than the required minimum (though those early classes might sting a little at first).