

A large, stylized number '1' composed of dark green and light green geometric shapes. The word 'FIRST' is written in yellow inside the top curve of the '1'.

**FIRST**

# **YEAR EXPERIENCE**

COLLEGE *of* SOUTHERN MARYLAND

## **What is expected of a college student?**

### **SUCCESS! PERSISTENCE!**

The College of Southern Maryland is committed to helping your student succeed and reach their goals. An understanding of college expectations and how to help them become a self-directed learner who takes personal responsibility for their education and future is key to creating a plan for success.

#### **Your student should:**

- ✓ Manage their own time.
- ✓ Balance their responsibilities and set their own priorities.
- ✓ Arrange their own schedule with an advisor's assistance.
- ✓ Keep in mind that professors may not follow the textbook. Most will expect them to relate to the class lectures and materials to the textbook readings.
- ✓ Attend and participate in their classes. This is a college expectation since the material covered in class is the student's responsibility regardless of whether they were in attendance or not.
- ✓ Buy their textbook before the class begins and READ the book.
- ✓ Read each course syllabus and ensure they know the important due dates, class grading scale, technology and connectivity needs, and faculty contact information.
- ✓ Keep an account of the graded assignments and calculate their grade.
- ✓ Know that while full-time is 12 credits or more—if they expect to get out within a two year period, 15 credits will be necessary (most 2 year degrees are 60 credits).
- ✓ Know that grades may not be given for all assigned work.
- ✓ Set aside at least two hours per week outside of class for each hour spent in class for studying and assignments. This time may increase when exams are near. 3 credit course X 2 hours = 6 hours study time per week, per class.
- ✓ Understand that tests and papers make up the bulk of the grade and bonus points for extra assignments may not be offered.
- ✓ Good effort is important and appreciated by professors but will not substitute for results in the grading process.
- ✓ To be considered full-time a student must be enrolled in 15 or more credits to graduate on time.