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.

What is expected of a college student?