How To Get Along With Your Professor

1. Go to class! Regular attendance is important not only for good relations with the professor, but also for ensuring that you don’t miss anything. Professors may say they don’t care about class attendance. Don’t believe it! They notice who’s there and who’s not.

2. If emergencies arise that cause you to miss class, be sure to get notes from someone in the class whose work you respect. At the next class meeting after your absence, tell the professor you’ve gotten the notes, but that you want to double-check to make sure you didn’t miss announcements of upcoming tests, etc.

3. Don’t be late! The first few minutes of class are often used for vital announcements of upcoming tests, due dates for assignments, etc.

4. Professors usually announce office hours at the first class meeting each semester. It is to your advantage to know your professors and for them to know you.

5. The purpose of meeting with a professor is to enhance your understanding of what is going on in class. Before your appointment, be sure you have done the following:
   - Previewed your text to familiarize yourself with topics for the remainder of the course.
   - Reviewed your notes up to that point and identified topics or issues that you don’t understand.
   - Locate the professor’s office so that you won’t be late for the appointment.
   - Make sure you know the professor’s title (Dr., Mr., Ms.) and how to pronounce his/her name.

6. Getting to know professors can have other benefits as well. Most of them are interesting people, knowledgeable about many topics beyond their own discipline. Finally, professors may have information about special opportunities that you may find useful.

7. Get assignments in on time! Earthquake, fire, flood, and catastrophic illness are the only excuses for turning assignments in late.

8. Being courteous in class doesn’t mean you have to agree with everything that’s being said. When you disagree or don’t understand a point, be positive. Preface your question with leads like "Could you clarify the relationship between . . . ?" or "Could you elaborate on . . . ?"

9. Grades are another area in which professors and students sometimes disagree. Never discuss a grade when you are angry. A test may have seemed unfair to you, but don’t label it as such when you’re discussing it with the professor. Be specific but courteous when making your points. If you make your points well, the next test may be much better constructed and may seem to you to be a fairer measure of your knowledge of the material.

10. Always bring a notebook and textbook to class. This communicates preparedness and interest, even if neither of these qualities applies to you.

AND DON’T FORGET!!! The first year of college is stressful for everybody. If you are feeling overwhelmed or are experiencing any of the above problems, please feel free to speak with a counselor at the Counseling Center. It’s free and easy!