

Mansfield University Focus on Learning Forum Students Engaged in Learning

The Learning Forum has held several discussions about expectations for students, faculty, and staff. The following points represent the consensus of Forum participants about expectations for students. In our discussions we recognized that stating expectations does not necessarily mean that students will automatically meet them. On the other hand, failing to make expectations explicit creates a vacuum that assuredly does not advance the learning goals of our University community. Moving closer to our ideal requires an ongoing process of engagement that is broadly supported.

What will a student engaged deeply in learning at Mansfield look like? How will we know when they are engaged?

Students in the classroom will...

- Attend regularly
- Come prepared, having thought about the material before class
- Bring to their classes ideas, appropriate materials, and questions
- Actively engage in discussions and asking questions
- View faculty member as a resource, but not the source of all learning
- Respect and value interactions with classmates
- Engage learning at their level of readiness and capability
- Make and express connections with other learning experiences
- Distinguish between information and knowledge
- Value and behave with integrity
- Relate the material being studied to their broader world
- View ideas that are different than their own as an opportunity, not as a threat
- Recognize that learning requires substantial effort
- Recognize that they must be accountable for their learning
- Balance the focus on learning and focus on grades (i.e., high grades may not equal deep learning)
- Are often involved in group learning activities when they are offered

Students out of the classroom on campus will...

- Understand learning does not stop at the classroom door
- Connect with a faculty member, likely in the major, who inspires them and supports them
- Get to know faculty members as persons and possibly mentors, especially early in their education
- Actively pursue learning
- Often study collaboratively, as well as individually
- Engage in intellectual conversations with other students, advisors, faculty
- Know how to use the library and use it
- Have a tutoring relationship when the need is indicated, either helping others or learning themselves

- Spend, on average, 2 *or more* study hours per in-class hour across the semester. (The amount of time required will vary considerably depending on students' backgrounds and particular abilities.)
- Frequently attend campus lectures and events
- Participate in organizations and events related to their disciplines
- Plan their work and manage their time wisely based on careful reflection about their commitment to their education
- Assess and understand the consequences of making decisions about how they will spend their time
- Be aware of current events and social issues
- Participate in other organizations that serve the campus community

Students out of the classroom and off campus will...

- Apply their learning to understanding and acting in the real world
- Relate their learning to their broader world
- Be aware of current events and social issues
- Seek a variety of formal applied learning experiences—practica, internships, etc.
- Be civically engaged
- Volunteer for community service
- Share their learning with friends, family, and other members of the community
- Understand that their behavior reflects the interests of the larger campus community
- Assume responsibility for community improvement in Mansfield as well as at home
- Be aware of the resources and opportunities in the community and region surrounding Mansfield University
- Attend appropriate professional and scientific meetings and conferences
- Reflect on the importance of education in their lives, commit to learning, and manage their time appropriately