

10 Points to Consider: Enrolling in CACC Courses

CACC courses have different requirements and expectations than traditional academic courses, due to the industry standards for specific occupations that our course curriculums are based on. The following list and attached questions are an attempt to share the expectations of the classes and outline what students need to be willing to do in order to succeed in our courses.

1. Students must act safely and control behavior, whether using power tools, expensive equipment, or computer programs. (This is training for a career; no horseplay.)
2. Students have to attend class regularly. Missing one three-hour block is equal to missing three days of a regular class.
3. Students should have an interest in the field. The CACC courses are very specific to industry.
4. If students need to have a review of content or more instruction, they will need to be willing to arrange this with the instructor -- outside of class time. Is the student willing and able to seek help and to advocate?
5. Yes, there is a textbook and homework. Students will need to do homework in many Career Center courses. Think of Career Center courses as not just “Hands on,” but “Hands on, Minds on.”
6. Students will need to learn specific and technical vocabulary. Career Center courses have academic demands that **many** students find challenging. (Many courses provide college level or technical school level, post-secondary coursework where dual credit can be received. Students must be ready to put in the work and effort.)
7. A positive attitude is required. This will be part of the Career Center class grade.
8. Modification of curriculum is only permitted if students need to be placed on a pass/fail contract in a specific class. They will drop at semester, and they cannot take a more advanced course in that same area. Modifications are not an option as curriculum is based on industry level standards.
9. Students must make time to access support. If students do not have an academic lab or study hall, this support will take place before or after school by prior appointment. Students will have to arrange the time and their own transportation to/from the CACC or arrange for support at their home building.
10. Many classes build on concepts from one unit to another. Students need to stay up with things as they go and if they don't meet minimum grade requirements at the end of first semester, they may have to drop the class.

Questions to Ask Students Considering Columbia Area Career Center Courses

1. Are you interested enough in this class or field to **work hard**?
2. Can you **listen to the instructor** and follow directions - especially directions with lots of steps?
3. Can you **control your behavior** and use power tools and dangerous equipment safely?
4. Will you **act in a mature and safe way** in the shop, classroom or on job sites?
5. Will you **come to school** on time and everyday, ready to dress out, if required?
6. Will you **do homework**?
7. Do you have **strong file management** computer skills?
8. If needed, can you **arrange time** to work with support staff on make-up work?
9. Will you work with the instructor **outside of class time** if you need help with learning the coursework?
10. Can you **get along** with peers and the teacher, especially when you have to work as a team?
11. Will you **learn a technical vocabulary** and use these words regularly?
12. Can you **independently** or with minimal assistance **read for information**?
13. Will you work hard to follow **written and verbal directions**?