Professionalism Information

Most students who take Math 111 are 1st and 2nd year students. Perhaps understandably, some Math 111 students are not fully acquainted with the level of professional conduct expected at the college level.

One major difference between college and high school is that YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASS! Mr. Hough will not call your parents (or other guardians) to report on your attendance (in fact, it would be a violation of privacy statutes to do so). However, THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES for deciding to do things instead of attending class. YOUR GRADE WILL BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED, both directly as part of your attendance grade and indirectly because you will miss material (most class days we cover new material).

By choosing to attend class you (tacitly) agree to do the following:

1. PUT AWAY YOUR CELL PHONE! You should not need to make or receive any calls during class time. If you do need to make or receive a call while in class (because of an emergency or other good reason), then you should talk with Mr. Hough before class. There may be times where you want to use the calculator feature of your cell phone, but it is far better to just purchase a cheap calculator (because you will not be allowed to use your cell phone calculator on quizzes or exams).

2. BE PART OF THE CLASS DISCUSSION. You will have many opportunities to explore new mathematical ideas on your own and in small groups. It is important that you use class time to try to make discoveries that you can share with others. THIS HELPS EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOU! DON’T WASTE THIS OPPORTUNITY by sleeping, talking about non-mathematical ideas, using your cell phone (see above), or by doing anything else that diminishes the in-class experience.

3. ALWAYS TRY, EVEN IF YOU ARE CONFUSED. There will be many occasions where you or others in class might have no idea” of what to do. This is perfectly OK. In fact, this is great since math is really about the transition from confusion to understanding. However, for this process to work, you have to put forth effort, even if this is hard to do (emotionally or otherwise).

4. BE RESPECTFUL OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS. We are all in this together, but we may not always be on the same page. It is OK to be confused, and it is OK if other people are confused. Let’s work together in the best way possible to move from confusion to understanding.

Here are some frequently asked questions (with answers) about Professionalism.

1. How is Professionalism measured in the class?
   Your professionalism is positively impacted by your attendance (by arriving on time and not leaving early), your participation in class discussion, and your performance on in-class assignments. Your professionalism is negatively impacted by being disruptive in class (determined by Mr. Hough), using your cell phone, not paying attention, or anything else that Mr. Hough deems to be unprofessional.”
2. How much is Professionalism worth as part of my final grade?

The professionalism component is worth 135 points toward your overall grade. THIS IS MORE THAN AN EXAM! Maintaining professional conduct is REALLY important in Math 111 and beyond. Fortunately, it is very easy for you to have ALL of these 135 points count towards your final grade. Just act in a professional and adult manner! If you have questions regarding professional conduct, please ask Mr. Hough during the first week of class.

3. I sometimes get bored and fall asleep in class. Will I lose professionalism points because of this?

Yes, you will. If you are getting bored then you should more actively participate in class. Ask questions or otherwise engage in the class discussion. If you continue to be bored with the awesome ideas that we consider in the course, THEN MAYBE YOU ARE BORING!

4. I want to use my computer while in class. Is this allowed?

Usually no. For most class meetings, Mr. Hough will have slides to motivate the discussion. These slides will always be available on the course webpage after class (and a version may also be available before class too). Using your computer while in class keeps your focus away from class discussion. It can also be very distracting for other students around you. However, if you feel like you have extenuating circumstances, please see Mr. Hough before bringing your computer to class.

5. What happens if I get caught using my cell phone?

You will lose professionalism points for that day. If you continue to use your cell phone you may even jeopardize the previous professionalism points that you have accrued. It’s just not a good idea to use your phone while in class.

6. I used my phone in class, but no one said anything. Did I lose any points?

Yes, you probably did. It is very easy for someone at the front of the room to see what members of the class are doing. Even if you have your cell phone in your lap MR. HOUGH CAN SEE YOU! (Also, there are no good reasons for a person to stare at his or her own crotch like that)

7. I have another question about professionalism, but it is not on this list. What should I do?

Try to ask your question in class during the first week. If this is not possible then feel free to email Mr. Hough at wesley.hough@uky.edu to ask him your question. DO NOT ASK YOUR QUESTION IN CLASS AFTER THE FIRST WEEK! (In fact, this is considered unprofessional.) If you ask a good question (that is not already answered), Mr. Hough might update this FAQ list with your question and give you extra credit! If you ask a question in class that is answered here or elsewhere on the course webpage, Mr. Hough will probably just refer you there. While asking questions is usually a great thing to do, asking questions that have readily available answers wastes class time and is often unprofessional.