Choosing RESPONSIBLY in College
- College is voluntary and expensive.
- You manage your own time.
- You must decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
- You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.
- You often have hours between class; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend the only 12 to 16 hours each week in class.
- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor.
- Graduation requirements are complex. You are expected to know those that apply to you.

SUCCEEDING in College Classes
- The academic year is divided into two separate 14 week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams.
- You need to review class notes and text material regularly.
- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.

College PROFESSORS
- Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
- Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
- Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
- Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.
- Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
- Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or they may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
- Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
- Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
- Professors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due and how you will be graded.
- Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.

TESTS in College
- Makeup test are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
- Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
- Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.

GRADES in College
- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
- Grades on test and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
- Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course.
- Watch out for your first tests. These are usually “wake-up calls” to let you know what is expected but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades.
- You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard.