

Questions to Ask your Professor and Tutor!

If you find yourself struggling in a specific class, **talking to your professor is the first step in improving your grade**. Your professor is the most capable person to tell you what specifically you can do to raise your grade in their class, and BONUS! - the fact that you took the initiative to seek assistance may work in your favor. Below are some starter questions to bring to your instructor when you ask to meet with them regarding an at-risk grade.

What is my current grade in the class?

If you are unsure where exactly your grade is at, just ask! The instructor can then point you toward what areas you need to improve in the class (i.e. participation, exams, homework, projects, etc.).

Can you look at my notes and tell me if I am getting all of the important topics that will be covered on the upcoming exam?

Show your professor you've already done some work in trying to understand the material. You may get an assist if you've skipped a critical study area, or your professor may highlight a particular area to focus your energy on.

Based on my past performance on exams, can you give me specific study advice?

Point out where you feel you've been struggling to get tips on how to improve in that area, like test anxiety, difficulty applying the formulas, etc.

Are there any additional opportunities to make up work or do extra assignments for extra points?

Although instructors may not have additional opportunities listed in their syllabus, it doesn't hurt to ask!

Do you have any extra practice questions on this topic?

Asking for more practice materials will help reinforce concepts, and will give your instructor an opportunity to potentially show you what type of problems will be on the exam.

I finished my project/paper early. Would you be willing to look and give me some feedback?

If you are concerned about an assignment that will weigh heavily on your final grade greatly, finish it early and have your professor look it over to ensure you're meeting all of the requirements.

If your instructor is unavailable to review an entire paper or project, ask 2-3 specific questions you may have about your assignment, and they'll likely have more time to answer those.

What if my professor is unavailable to meet?

Do not be afraid to ask for feedback from other professors in the same department, or come to University Advising, we may be able to assist!

I am struggling in this course due to missing some classes, but do not plan to be absent again. I have some ideas on how I can catch up; can I review those with you?

Review the attendance and late-work policy on the syllabus and calculate any lost points and discuss with your professor how you plan to catch up.

What should I be bringing to my tutoring sessions?

Be sure to bring classwork, homework, tests, note cards, textbooks, **snacks**, and questions which can include:

- Have you taken this specific course before, and can point me to what areas to focus on?

- I'm having trouble understanding this concept/paragraph; can you review it with me?
- Is this how you do it? (Always try solving the problem first.)
- Can you help me find an example problem to do, so I can practice applying the material I've learned?