



## International Students at UNLV Tips & Information to Promote Academic Success Developed by the Teaching & Learning Center (TLC)

Dear International Student,

As you embark on or proceed with your studies at UNLV, you may wish to consider ways to increase your academic success. You may find this university and the community around to be very different from your previous experiences, and you may be facing a number of adjustments to the way courses are taught, how students communicate with their instructors, and the social aspects of living in a foreign culture. This simple resource is intended to provide you with information about resources available to you at UNLV, and about ways to make your academic experience here a success.



### TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- ☀ **You are not alone.**  
Find other international students who have been here longer than you and learn from their experiences. Make friends with American students — they are familiar with the educational system and they can help you.
- ☀ **It is alright to ask questions.**  
Instructors welcome students' questions and don't see them as challenging their authority. The more questions you ask, the more likely you are to do your work according to expectations.
- ☀ **Be prepared to change.**  
Things may be done differently from your previous experiences. Be prepared to learn new ways of being a student, new approaches to your studies, new ways to participate in your own learning.
- ☀ **Know where to find assistance.**  
There are many helpful resources at UNLV whose purpose is to assist students. A list of these resources is included on the other side of this page. Identify what these resources can do to assist you, and don't hesitate to contact them.
- ☀ **Find study partners.**  
Make friends with people in each of your classes and consider studying with them, sharing class notes, and providing feedback, when appropriate.
- ☀ **Learn about student responsibilities.**  
Rules of behavior here may be different from your previous experiences. Find out what is permissible and what is not. Ask your instructors and classmates what the standards are.
- ☀ **Manage your time well.**  
Plan each week carefully and stick to your schedule. On average, for every class session you can expect to spend 2-3 hours per undergraduate course and 3-4 per graduate course doing course work outside of class.
- ☀ **Use Class Time Well.**  
Prepare for each class, including reading all assignments thoroughly. Sit towards the front of the class. Take good notes in class and review them as soon as you can after class. Be ready to ask questions about difficult material.
- ☀ **Participate.**  
Be prepared to contribute to class discussions and answer questions. Instructors may assume you are not prepared if you do not participate.
- ☀ **Take responsibility for your own success.**  
Become familiar with the course syllabus and work to meet all of the expectations addressed in it. Learn about assignments and the different test types. Each student is responsible for his/her success.
- ☀ **Make time to socialize with American and international students from different countries.**