

Student FAQ: What to Expect in My Classes

Brightspace handout

Prof. Paul Jaijairam — Bronx Community College (CUNY)

Core expectations (applies to all courses)

Before class: What should I do?

Read the assigned chapter before coming to class. Class time is for reinforcing, clarifying, and applying what you read.

- Skim objectives and key terms
- Bring questions (even short ones)
- Try assigned practice problems before class when possible

During class: What is expected of me?

Be an active participant—follow steps, attempt problems, contribute to discussion, and ask questions. Passive attendance rarely leads to strong results.

- Take notes on problem-solving steps
- Ask when something is unclear (early)
- Stay engaged during practice and group work

Is attendance important?

Yes. Regular attendance matters because each session builds on prior material and helps you see how concepts connect.

How do I study for quizzes and exams?

Aim for understanding and application—not memorization. Rework practice questions without looking at solutions until you can explain each step.

- Space your studying (a little each week)
- Identify weak topics early
- Use tutoring/office hours before exam week

What if I'm confused or falling behind?

Do not wait until after an exam to reach out. If you are confused, contact me early and use available supports.

- Email questions as they come up
- Attend office hours
- Use tutoring (especially if referred)

How often can I email you?

As often as needed—especially if you are actively working and have specific questions. Clear communication is part of being successful.

Office hours: What can I use them for?

Office hours are for more than just course help. You can also discuss your academic program and career direction.

- Course concepts and problem-solving
- Study strategy and planning
- Program planning (courses, sequencing)
- Career guidance and next steps

Tutoring: When should I use it?

Use tutoring when you feel consistently unsure, when your performance suggests gaps, or when I recommend it. Tutoring is proactive, not a last resort.

If I miss a class, what should I do?

It is your responsibility to catch up. Exchange contact information with classmates early so you can get notes and updates quickly.

- Get notes from a classmate
- Review posted materials
- Email me if questions remain after reviewing

Course-specific expectations

First-year / Principles courses (ACC 111/112): Focus on building strong habits, vocabulary, and the accounting cycle. Consistency is key—small gaps grow quickly if ignored.

Intermediate / Advanced courses: Expect more judgment, deeper analysis, and multi-step problems. Reading and preparation become even more important, because class time moves faster and builds on prior knowledge.

Bottom line: Come prepared, attend consistently, ask questions early, and use support resources. I will support you fully—but you must take ownership of your learning.

Contact: Paul.Jaijairam@bcc.cuny.edu