

[See this page in the course material.](#)

Learning Objectives

- Explain why regular class attendance class is important

Students don't always want to go to class. They may have required classes that they find difficult or don't enjoy, or they may feel overwhelmed by other commitments or feel tired if they have early morning classes. However, even if instructors allow a certain number of unexcused absences, you should aim to attend every class session. Class attendance enhances class performance in the following ways:

- **Class participation:** If you don't attend class, you can't participate in class activities. Class activities are usually part of your final grade, and they can help you apply concepts you learn from lectures and reading assignments.
- **Class interaction:** If you rely on learning on your own (by doing the reading assignments outside of class, for example), you'll miss out on class discussions with fellow students. Your classmates will often have the same questions as you, so going to class enables you to learn from them and ask your instructor about topics you all find difficult.
- **Interaction with the instructor:** There is a reason why classes are taught by instructors. Instructors specialize in the subjects they teach, and they can provide extra insight and perspective on the material you're studying. Going to class gives you the chance to take notes and ask questions about the lectures. Also, the more you participate, the more your instructors will come to know you and be aware of any help or support you might need. This will make you feel more comfortable to approach them outside of class if you need advice or are struggling with the course material.
- **Increased learning:** Even though you will typically spend more time on coursework outside of the classroom, this makes class sessions even more valuable. Typically, in-class time will be devoted to the most challenging or key concepts covered in your textbooks. It's important to know what these are so you can master them—also they're likely to show up on exams.

Why Missing a Class Sometimes Makes Sense (though not often)

The following video addresses the idea of going to class from a real-world perspective, focusing on the opportunity cost for each class session attended or missed.

[Video Link](#)

You can view the [transcript for “Should You Ever Skip Class? – College Info Geek” here \(opens in new window\)](#).

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- Should You Ever Skip Class? - College Info Geek. **Authored by:** Thomas Frank. **Located at:** <https://youtu.be/MLuiW8kYJh0>. **License:** *All Rights Reserved*. **License Terms:** Standard YouTube License

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