

Why Students Attend Class, Why They Don't and The Factors That Don't Seem to Matter

Factors That Influence Student Attendance	Factors That Don't Seem to Matter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with higher GPAs are less likely to skip. • Students are less likely to skip classes they freely chose to take. • Students were less likely to skip professional school classes than humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences – unless the instructor takes roll. • Attendance policies motivate students to attend. • Students are more likely to skip a large class than a small class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student's Sex • Student's Age • Student's Employment Status • Credit Hours Enrolled • Student's Residence (living on- or off-campus) • Student's Class Standing • Student's Tuition Status • Time of the Class

Reasons Students DO Attend Class*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I believe I should attend (Not going makes me feel guilty.)</i> • <i>The teacher notices and cares when I am there.</i> • <i>Absences above a minimum affect my grade.</i> • <i>I like participating in this class.</i> • <i>I want to ask questions in class.</i> • <i>We work on assignments or projects in class.</i> • <i>The amount of my class participation affects my grade.</i> • <i>I am interested in the course content.</i>

Reasons Students DO NOT Attend Class*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Attendance is not taken or does not influence my grade.</i> • <i>The teacher doesn't notice or care whether I am there.</i> • <i>Course content is available from another source (e.g. I can get it from the text, the web, a tutor, a classmate's notes).</i> • <i>I felt tired or overslept because I had fun the night before.</i> • <i>The teacher digresses, is repetitious, confusing, or goes too quickly, so I don't learn much when I attend.</i> • <i>I dislike the subject matter.</i> • <i>I like the subject matter, but the teacher is boring; I'd attend more often if someone else presented the material.</i> • <i>Instead of attending, I did an assignment or studied for a test in another course.</i> • <i>Instead of attending, I wanted to take a break during the time class was meeting.</i> • <i>It is my first or last class of the day.</i>

*Reasons reported by students, as related to attendance behavior, in descending order.