EXCEL Group Participant Agreement

We are pleased to offer EXCEL Collaborative Learning Groups to assist you with your course! EXCEL Groups target traditionally difficult courses and benefit students at any performance level in the class. In fact, research shows that on average students who regularly attend collaborative learning sessions perform at a half of a letter grade to an entire letter grade higher than those who do not attend.\(^1\)

Keep in mind that EXCEL Group sessions are designed to be an on-going weekly commitment. In general, you will meet with your group once a week for an hour at a set time. \textit{If you cannot make this weekly commitment, then EXCEL is not for you.}

EXCEL sessions are personalized to the individual members in that EXCEL group. Therefore, only pre-registered students will be allowed to attend EXCEL Group sessions. If a group is full you will be wait-listed until a spot becomes available or another group is formed (Each class may have multiple EXCEL Groups). \textit{In order to establish and maintain a cohesive group, each EXCEL group member must consistently attend and actively participate in the sessions of his or her assigned group.}

In order for us to keep this service free and available to as many students as possible, and in order for you to get the most out of your EXCEL Group sessions, we ask you to agree to observe the following:

EXCEL Participant Expectations

Preparation:

Before the session, do your best to review any relevant textbook readings and/or lecture notes and attempt your assignments in order to identify specific questions to discuss with your group. It can also be helpful to take advantage of other resources — Professor/TA office hours, walk-in tutoring, etc. — in accordance with any professor instructions. Plan to take any relevant texts, notes, and all other necessary materials to your group sessions.

Participation:

Keep in mind that your EXCEL leader is available to assist you with specific questions on course concepts and problems; however, he/she is not a lecturer and cannot preview or re-teach broad material. If you need more in depth review, get in touch with your professor or TA. Instead, your EXCEL leader will employ strategies and techniques to help you address your questions and problems with the material on your own and in collaboration with your peers. So keep in mind that they cannot give out answers, nor can they directly address your homework for you. Take any homework questions to office hours or walk-in tutoring. Furthermore, don’t forget that EXCEL Group sessions are not a replacement for going to lecture and recitation.

EXCEL Participant Agreement

I agree to:

- I will \textbf{actively participate} in the sessions in order to enhance my own learning and the learning of my fellow group members. I will ask questions, engage with questions asked by other students, and participate in the learning activities prepared by my group leader.

- I will make every attempt to attend each regularly scheduled session \textbf{on time}. If I need to miss a session, I will contact my EXCEL Leader \textbf{twenty-four (24) hours in advance} to let him/her know that I will not be in attendance. I understand that this is a common courtesy, demonstrates my commitment to the group, and allows my leader to better prepare for my group's sessions.

- I understand that if I fail to notify my leader in advance of an absence, this will count as a no-show. If I no-show three (3) times during a semester, I understand that Academic Development reserves the right to cancel my appointment permanently for the term in order to make room for students who will be active participants.

\(^1\) EXCEL Group membership is not a guarantee of grade improvement, but, based upon the individual student’s engagement and active participation, an opportunity for students to engage in deep learning, which often leads to increased performance.