Hello, and welcome to the Faculty Expectations portion of your SOAR orientation. My name is Lisa Putnam Cole and I've taught courses in reading, study skills, and education courses for teachers in training here at Heartland for over ten years.

If you are listening to this podcast, you are participating in Heartland's online SOAR orientation for part-time students. Part-time students have comprised the bulk of Heartland’s enrollment since the College's inception in 1991. Over the past five years, the percentage of part-time students in any given semester has hovered around 58%. At Heartland, part-time students are a majority population, so you can rest assured that there are a lot of students like you. We also know that if you are listening to this podcast, this is your first time enrolling at Heartland and we'd like to welcome you. We believe you will find Heartland a place where students and learning are emphasized, and we truly hope that will be your experience while you are here. I've been asked to share with you the faculty perspective on expectations of a college student, and I am going to discuss how, from a faculty perspective, your success at Heartland is all about you.

From a faculty perspective it is clear that successful students demonstrate both attitudes and actions that separate them from their less successful classmates, and we'll look at both in more detail.

Attitudes drive your actions. Attitudes start with you, and they radiate outward to impact everyone and everything in your world. Since attitudes involve your posture toward the outer world, they are of the utmost importance. Attitudes determine your actions toward
your instructors, your classmates, your academic work, and the college community.  

*There are countless attitudes displayed by students who are successful but we will focus on six. Successful students are focused, responsible, reflective, realistic, respectful and resourceful.* If you want to achieve your academic goals, faculty recommend that you embrace and act upon each of these attitudes.

*If you want to be successful, you need to be focused.* Resist multitasking when it comes to your academics. Clear your study environment of distractions. Turn off your cell phone. Use your TV or your tunes for background noise only; don’t watch your TV or sing along with your tunes while you are attempting to study. Direct your attention to the task at hand. Tell yourself you will concentrate. Make your study time work for you. Another tip to help you stay focused is to tell yourself to live in the moment. Be intentional about what you do.

*If you want to be successful, you need to be responsible.* That includes your own learning and your grades, as well as your actions and their consequences. Responsible students don’t blame their instructors for their failures and they don’t blame other people for their own shoddy decision-making.

*If you want to be successful you need to be reflective.* Know yourself. Think about what you find fulfilling and motivating. Remember why you enrolled in college. There MUST have been a reason why--a goal or goals you wanted to achieve… and recall that goal or those goals to motivate yourself. Get into the habit of asking yourself the following questions about your learning and your academic performance: What attitudes and behaviors help you get the results that you want? What attitudes and behaviors keep you from being successful? Continue the behaviors that are working and look for behaviors to replace those that are not working.

*If you want to be successful you need to be realistic.* What can you reasonably expect to accomplish within the 168 hours you are given each week? You have to eat, and sleep, work, attend school and perhaps take care of others. And let’s not forget play! Balance is
important to a healthy lifestyle and mindset. You have to take care of your body so it can take care of you. And you have to take care of yourself if you need to take care of others.

*If you want to be successful, you need to be respectful.* Successful college students value the opinions and perspectives of their instructors and of the other students in their courses, and to do this you must first value yourself. And “respect” as it is used here does not mean to put the opinions and perspectives of others above those of your own in some old-fashioned or deferential way. Instead, work to value or appreciate others as human beings and fellow citizens of this planet. You don’t have to agree, but you do need to listen and thoughtfully consider their often times annoying or alarming opinions. You can learn a lot about yourself from thinking about the opinions of others. One of the broad goals of a college education is to develop in individuals a tolerance for others whose perspectives are different than their own.

*If you want to be successful you need to be resourceful.* Heartland Community College offers many resources that are free of charge to all students. Take advantage of the college's human resources to increase your chances of success. Build relationships with your instructors, your advisors in Student Services and the tutors in the Academic Support Center, or ASC.

*These six attitudes, when truly embraced, will express themselves as behaviors that faculty observe in the most successful students.* As mentioned previously, your attitudes drive your actions and behaviors, and these will be the focus of the second portion of this podcast.

As a student at Heartland, there are two important recipients of your actions, at least as they relate to your academic life: your coursework and the college community. The actions you take in relation to your coursework are overtly and directly responsible for your grades. But those actions you take outside of the classroom can have an impact on your education as well. Research has show that students who seek and make connections
within a college community are more likely to "stay with" their education and see it to its completion. At Heartland we are interested in seeing you succeed in your individual courses and also with your long-term goals. *Faculty observations yield a long list of actions in which successful students engage. Five that are crucial are to: prepare before class, participate during class, ponder after class, prioritize, and commune.*

*The first and most obvious context for your academic actions is your coursework, and the first three actions directly address the classroom.*

*If you want to be successful, you need to prepare for class.* Learning doesn't occur only during class. Many students wonder how much preparation is enough. We recommend the two for one rule. That is, you spend two hours outside class, preparing, for each hour you spend inside class. If you are in a hybrid or online class you will have to adjust accordingly. Before class, as you prepare, you need to think about what you already know about the topic and how the information might benefit you. As part of your preparation, you need to be sure to complete readings, assignments and papers on time. And please don't try to finish your homework during class.

*If you want to be successful you need to participate during class.* Stay active during class time. Take notes. Ask questions. Connect the material to something you already know. If you are doing group work, join in. Your level of engagement (or the lack thereof) during class sends a loud message to your instructors that you may not realize you are conveying.

*If you want to be successful you need to ponder after class.* The more you process information, the better you will remember it. Things you can do to enhance your memory after class are to: review or rewrite your notes, predict test questions, form a study group, or make instructional aids such as note cards or study guides. And another part of pondering is to start the process of preparing for the next class.
If you want to be successful you need to prioritize. Prioritizing is an action connected to the attitude of reflection. Prioritizing is an action that reflects your performance in the classroom and also at a broader level. You must reflect to know yourself, but to truly prioritize you must ACT. To determine your priorities, you must think about what you really value and what you really want to do with your life. The answer to these questions will help you determine your priorities. In turn, knowing your priorities will help you make sound decisions when you must. Some typical, but very difficult, decisions students find themselves making when things aren't moving along smoothly, are:

- Do I drop a class or accept a lower grade?
- Do I drop a class or leave my child in day care longer?
- Do I drop a class or work fewer hours?

Most often decisions to the questions like those listed above are faced by part-time students due to the very nature of their life situations.

This final action, communing, is the one that seems most distant to the classroom, yet it still effects academic performance in its broadest sense. If you want to be successful you need to commune. Successful students often decide to get involved so that they can become a part of the Heartland community. This is, of course, as their time and their priorities allow. Take advantage of our Student Life programs to strengthen your bonds with the Heartland community. Attend student events such as movies, the Hear and Know Show, and Diversity Day. Or you may choose to take part in student activities such as athletics, clubs, and organizations.

As a part-time student, you are one of many who make up a large proportion of the College's enrollment each semester. Part-time students tend to be pulled in more different directions and to have to juggle more, and as a result, they may be forced to make difficult decisions about time use more often than full-time students. And, while you have some unique needs because of your part-time enrollment, the expectations that faculty have of you in the classroom are just the same as they are for anyone else.
As great as the challenges of completing a course and/or a degree may seem, remember that the college offers lots of resources to help you: faculty (before and after class, and during office hours), advisors (in Student Services) and tutors (in the ASC), as well as others, are at your disposal, at no cost, if you need some help or even a boost.

We've covered six attitudes and five actions that are crucial to student success. The members of Heartland’s faculty assume that you've enrolled here because we can help you learn (through your coursework) or earn (through completion of a degree program), in ways that will benefit your life. *It is up to you whether or not you decide to engage to the end that you’ll learn or earn. In the end, your success is all about you, the attitudes you embraces, and the actions in which you engage.* Good luck.