

Strategies for Successful Online Learning

Approach to online courses

You can treat an online course like a traditional, in-person course. Start the term by reviewing the course syllabus, including the learning outcomes and objectives, as these indicate what you are expected to know, value, or be able to do at the end of the course. In order to successfully complete the course, be sure you know all the course requirements, including technology, assessment, and participation. You will need to dedicate a significant amount of time to your course and the requirements that you are expected to complete. It will be more time than a traditional in-person course.

Be accountable

At the beginning of the term create a major goal for the course(s). Write the goal down, keep that piece of paper close to your workspace so that you see it and are reminded of it often, and share the goal with others. The online learning process requires a great deal of self-discipline, working at your own pace, commitment and creating your own work environment. You are expected to login to OWL and your UWO email on a regular basis, as well as check for information or updates on other sites specified by your professor. Throughout the term, be sure to review your course material, summarize lecture and textbook material, revise your plan as needed, and repeat.

Maximize your productivity

You can find resources on our [website](#) to support you in creating a study plan, such as our 4 month or weekly calendar. In your plan and schedule, be sure to include time for both academic and non-academic tasks. Schedule academic tasks during the time of day that you feel most productive (morning, afternoon or the early evening), and be sure to include non-academic tasks, such as sleeping, eating, exercise, being outdoors. These are essential for your wellness and are

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advantageous for your courses. Also, check in with your classmates, teaching assistants, and professors on your progress, and ask for help when needed.

Create a study space

You want your study space to be distraction free. Ideally, it's great to have a space dedicated solely for studying, but if you are using a multi-purpose space, identify blocks of time that you need it and hopefully others will respect your time to focus on your courses and coursework. Reducing distractions by having an organized study space is helpful. When you sit down to work have everything that you need, such as laptop, textbook, notebook, pen, glass of water, and a snack. This will allow you to sit down and focus on your work and reduce the number of times you have to get up to gather items.