



## Student Strategies for Success in the Remote Environment

### Acknowledge the Obvious

This isn't a normal semester and your classes may not turn out quite like you expected. That's okay. Your instructors are working to ensure instructional continuity during this shift to remote instruction, but your classes are going to be different in a number of ways. While it's important to acknowledge the challenges associated with this adjustment, it's also important to identify strategies that can help you address and adapt to the changes you are facing.

### Make a Plan

Make a detailed list of the assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams that you will need to complete for the rest of the semester. Be sure to read due date, instructions, and details carefully. With these tasks in mind, create a weekly schedule, blocking sufficient chunks of time during which you can make progress and complete tasks. Create written, calendar, or smart phone reminders to remind you to begin important projects and assignments with ample time before the deadline.

### Find a Place to Study

If possible, set aside a separate area in which to do school work. It's best to have separate work and leisure areas, otherwise you may find it hard to "get away from school work" or conversely, be distracted while trying to do school work. You will want enough space to comfortably accommodate your devices, books, and other materials, but not so comfortable that you have difficulty remaining attentive or awake. If possible, use a wired connection and a headset with a microphone while on live video streams. If your internet connection is unstable, try working during low-volume times (e.g., early in the morning).

### Limit Distractions

To make the most of your study time, try to limit:

- Interruptions from friends, family, and pets.
- Noise and potential distractions. Turn off cell phones, TV, social media, and let others know you are studying. Apps like [Forest](#), [Hocus Focus](#), and [Freedom](#) can help you block out distractions while you work.

### Manage Your Learning

Remote learning requires that you take an active role in managing your own learning. To support this effort:

- **Monitor** your email and your CourseWeb/Blackboard and Canvas courses daily.
- **Schedule** regular blocks of time each day to complete your course work.
- **Participate and engage** in course activities. Watch course videos. Respond to discussion boards. Review PowerPoint presentations. Complete readings and assignments. Attend virtual office hours and help sessions. These activities have been designed to help you learn. Active participation supports and enhances your learning.



- **Stay in contact** with your instructors. They want to provide you with resources to help you succeed in the course. If you are confused or have questions about something, don't hesitate to ask for immediate clarification or help.
- **Keep up.** DO NOT wait until the last minute to begin or complete assignments, readings, discussion posts, projects, or other course work. Do not fall behind, as catching-up is often difficult and causes additional stress.
- **Make studying enjoyable.** What do you need to keep yourself alert and in a good mood? Snacks? Coffee? Music? Natural light? Short breaks (e.g., 10 minutes every hour block?) Figure out what works for you to remain engaged, be safe, and stay healthy.

### Actively Participate

The remote/online environment does not provide the same type of interactions and collaboration as the face-to-face classroom. Engaging with your classmates and instructors in an online setting may require you to practice some new ways of connecting.

- Proactively reach out to your instructors if you have questions or need assistance.
- Review your instructors' feedback carefully and take steps to use feedback to improve.
- Communicate with classmates in the course via discussion board, group project, or web conferencing.
- Make connections with classmates on social media, by text, or email and be welcoming to those reaching out to connect with you.
- Be respectful. Recognize that there is a human being on the other end of your communications.
- Start or join a virtual (Zoom) study group.
- Stay virtually connected to the university communities to which you already belong.

These strategies should provide you with a number of useful tools to support a satisfying and successful semester.