

Student Strategies for Online Learning Success

Learning in an online environment and at a college level is different than learning in a physical classroom. You must be self-directed, stay focused, and take charge of your own learning.

Your instructor will evaluate your performance in your course in three areas: **timeliness, quality of work, and effectiveness of your communication.**

To be successful in your online course at Worcester State University, follow the online learning strategies below.

1. Log in Daily.

To get the most out of your course, log in daily to keep up with assignments and to contribute to discussions in a timely manner.

2. Plan where and when you will complete your coursework at the start of each week.

You may be involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, theater, debate team, etc., and there will be weeks that are busier for you than others. While online courses give you the flexibility to work on the course wherever and whenever you wish, **all readings, discussions, and coursework are due when outlined in the course syllabus.** Therefore, as you complete your course, be sure that you are aware of due dates and budget your time wisely to keep up with your coursework. If you know you will be unable to access the course for a period of time, let your instructor know right away.

3. Actively participate in discussion forums.

The best way to engage with your instructor and create deeper connections with classmates is to make meaningful contributions to the discussions. **Discussions are an integral part of your instructor's final evaluation of your work in the course.** Think of discussions like "class participation" in school.

Take the time to visit the discussions every day to post your thoughts and comment on your classmates' posts.

4. Practice Academic Integrity.

Be aware of WSU's [Academic Policies](#) and [Code of Conduct](#).

5. Ask for Help.

Once you have access to your course, please do not hesitate to ask for assistance, either from your instructor(s) or University Technical Services (UTS). We are here to assist you!