

Online Lifestyle

Online Learning requires different skills. Essentially, you are in charge of your learning. You have the control of when and where will you access a course. Usually, the instructors provide online learning materials as learning blocks (most likely as weeks in D2L, or possibly units/topics). Expect different media. Expect the course activities and assessment to be connected to the course objectives. You will likely have both individual and group assignments to complete.

- 1. Time Management:** Scheduling and planning is essential – even though you won't have an exact time you need to be in a classroom, the virtual classroom is even more present, and the instructors will have set due dates every week. Online does not mean easier – it is usually harder even though time and place are flexible. Try to connect to the optional synchronous meetings.
- 2. Find a place to study:** Choose a space where you can concentrate and have everything ready.
- 3. Reading for Class:** Work ahead. Start Monday having read everything for that week – as you're talking about one week's worth of readings, you need to be reading for the next week.
- 4. Check-in daily:** D2L is considered a Learning Environment, so you know that you will find what you need by logging in to your course, as well as by checking your SCSU email. Make studying (interacting on the message boards or other designated collaboration tools for 30- 90 minutes) and checking SCSU email and course D2L pages a part of your daily routine. You will still spend around 12 hours a week for a 3-credit course.
- 5. Study as if you are in a brick and mortar class:** Be familiar with the syllabi and due dates, put them on your calendar, update your day to day agenda, and expect to read and then discuss as if you were coming to the classroom. You will spend the same amount of time studying on an online class as in a face-to-face class.
- 6. Collaborate with others:** Reach out to your classmates with questions or just to network. You will always feel better knowing they are on the same page. Form an online study group – use [Office 365 Find Time](#), [Zoom](#), create a Facebook group – whatever works best for everyone.

Expect to have group projects and discussions. Use your student Office 365 account: [OneDrive](#) allows you to share a document with classmates and you can edit it real time in [Word Online](#).
- 7. Utilize available resources:** Get familiar with what SCSU and our department can do for you and don't be afraid to reach out. In addition, think about the technology that works for you – if you prefer to check in from your phone, there are apps directly connected to your D2L classes.

Use [OneNote](#) to keep notes. [Chat with a librarian](#) any time if you have questions on requesting material. Use [Brightspace Pulse app](#) to keep track of class announcements and discussions. Use [Tutor.com](#) for statistics or APA. In addition to having the APA manual, use [Perdue OWL](#) website for a quick reference to APA rules.

8. **Take a break to refresh and remember to reward yourself:** Take a break and allow yourself some downtime even when there are so many readings. Also, before you submit a discussion post or a paper make sure to proofread/reread what you wrote.

9. **Remember your motivators:** You will undoubtedly feel overwhelmed, but remember why you wanted to join this program. If you are here today it already means you are able to finish! Remember – our superpower is not being super smart; it is just being incredibly persistent! ☺

10. **Online Presence and Social Media:** Finally, be aware of how you present yourself online. Support your classmates and our program! Follow our events and news on our blog and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Resources

Buckley, Z. (2018). Top 10 Ways to Succeed in Online Education. *The Bst Schools*. Retrieved from: <https://thebestschools.org/features/best-ways-succeed-online-education>

Mock, J. (2015). 7 TIPS FOR SUCCESS WHEN TAKING ONLINE COURSES. *Illinois Online*. Retrieved from: <https://online.illinois.edu/articles/online-learning/item/2015/09/16/7-tips-for-online-success>

The Crowdsourced Guide to Learning. (2018) *FutureLearn.com*. Retrieved from: <https://www.futurelearn.com/learning-guide>

Additional Resources/ Further Reading:

<https://punitarice.com/surviving-and-succeeding-in-an-online-doctorate/>

<http://www.gradsource.com/resources/where-to-start/tips-for-studying-online-to-get-a-masters-degree/>

<http://blog.stcloudstate.edu/attn/2016/08/02/managing-online-learning-free-online-courses/>



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