Navigating Online Courses

Many of the strategies for successful face-to-face courses apply to online courses. However, online learning may require some additional abilities. Here are some skills we recommend strengthening.

Technical IQ

Distance learning means using new technology. Try your tools before your first class and have IT service numbers at the ready.

Time Management

Understand what is expected of you, map out key due dates and plan study time. A consistent routine helps to keep you on track.

Initiative

Ask for help. Approach your instructors and classmates more than you're used to. Attend virtual office hours and create study groups.

Self-Awareness

Find your study style. Since your learning will be self-managed, note if you learn best alone, in a group, in quiet, with background music, etc..

Responsibility

Not being in an in-person course means being responsible and accountable on your own. Lean on your favorite accountability tools.

Instructor Communication

Get to know your instructor. Learn their preferred method of communication for future questions and concerns.

Growth Mindset

Those who approach online learning with an open mind are more successful. Focus on its flexibility, self-pacing and independence.

Motivation

Avoid feeling isolated by connecting with virtual classmates. Meet virtually with an Academic Success Coach. Celebrate wins with family and friends.