Success Outline

Online students face as many challenges as resident students, if not more.

Things to think about with an eye towards success:

Know Thy Course

There is a difference between wanting to take a course and having to take a course.

- Think about why you are taking the course. What are your objectives and goals? Being specific about your outcomes reinforces your motivation and will help you to learn.
- Conversely, think about what is expected of you as part of the course. How will you be graded or assessed? How much time are you expected to spend on the course? By knowing what is expected of you, you can plan your learning strategy or strategies appropriately.
- The syllabus is your bible. The syllabus should outline all expectations, due dates, and requirements of the course. The syllabus is your map through the course and to your success!
- Do you meet the minimum requirements for the course, and if you do not, can you develop yourself to meet those requirements? Do you want to?
Manage Time Appropriately

Most online courses may take from 5 to 15 hours of your week. To fit this time in, you must plan for it.

- Keep a calendar indicating due dates for assignments and tests and do not turn in anything late.
- Mark up, highlight, and dog-ear your syllabus.
- Set up a study schedule and stick to it! Get your family and friends on board to support you.
- Log-in to your course and check your emails daily to stay on top of potential changes or receive any breaking news.

Participate

You paid for the course, now become a part of it!

- Communicate with your instructor and your peers using email, instant messaging, and any other tools that you feel can aid in becoming part of your course community.
- Check your email frequently.
- Be polite and respectful to individuals in your course community.
- Ask questions.

- If you can't make a deadline or are going to miss an assignment, talk to the instructor!

Learn

- Share your educational, occupational, and life experiences with your peers beyond the classroom.
- Develop your writing skills.
- Be yourSELF--self-motivated, self-disciplined, self-directed.
- Think critically and make informed decisions.
- Share, explore, and discuss ideas.
- Be open.
- Keep up with technology and the tools required by the course.

Enjoy

If you aren't enjoying the time you are spending with your course, then maybe the course is not for you. Or maybe you are not meant to take the course online. Online learning requires a large amount of motivation and dedication by the learner. As an online learner, you must be proactive and make the most of your learning. You paid for it. You might as well make the most of it.

Additional Resources

- If you have any questions or concerns with your course and its content, please contact your instructor.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding technical issues, contact the World Campus technical support staff.
- Illinois Online Network: Educational Resources [1]