Online Learning Resources

The following resources will help to orient you to online learning and strategies to work with your fellow students this term.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Both students and instructors are expected to obey the rules of honest scholarship.

Academic misconduct--cheating--is not just "against the rules." It violates the assumptions at the heart of all learning. It destroys the mutual trust and respect that should exist between a student and professor. It is unfair to students who earn their grades honestly.

Upholding academic integrity means:

- Developing and conveying your own ideas in course work;
- Identifying all sources of information;
- Acknowledging collaboration when assignments aren't completed independently;
- Accurately reporting results when conducting your own research or with respect to labs;
- Honesty during quizzes and exams.

Online Learning Tips

Taking an online course is different than going to a classroom, and to be successful you'll need to strengthen skills like working independently, budgeting your time and staying organized.

Here are 5 basic tips to help you make the most of your time online:

1. **Set a weekly study schedule - and stick to it.** Completing the reading, discussion posts and assignments in an online class can be challenging, especially when you're juggling multiple responsibilities. It's no coincidence that one study found that 79% of students identified time management as critical to their online success.
2. **Create a study space.** Finding a space to work where you won't be disturbed and can set up (at your house, in the library or wherever works for you) will help you stay focused and keep your study materials organized.
3. **Get started on readings and assignments early.** Students often say the "need the pressure" of waiting until the last minute, but the truth is procrastinating causes unnecessary stress and leads to less-than-quality work.
4. **Communicate regularly with your instructor.** Besides getting your questions answered, establishing a working relationship with your instructor is essential for expanding your professional network and developing a list of references you can use for career purposes. (Your instructor really does want to help you!)
5. **Engage with your classmates.**
6. Taking an online course should be more than sitting in front of a computer — real engagement involves becoming a part of the community of learners.
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8. Building a few supportive relationships with my classmates is critical because as an online student, it would be easy to miss the camaraderie that often exists in a traditional classroom. That same camaraderie online motivates and keeps me engaged in classes.
9. You'll increase your chances of online success if you don't feel like a solo student doing homework online. Building even a few supportive connections with classmates will help you be more engaged, develop positive attitudes towards the class, and makes the environment feel safer for sharing.

Resources:

- OEI Student Success Resources

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- [8-Minute Exercise that Helps Online Learning Success](#)

The Core Rules of Netiquette

The Core Rules of Netiquette are excerpted from the book *Netiquette* by Virginia Shea.

#1: Remember the human

When you communicate electronically, all you see is a computer screen. You don't have the opportunity to use facial expressions, gestures, and tone of voice to communicate your meaning; words -- lonely written words -- are all you've got. And that goes for your correspondent as well.

Computer networks bring people together who'd otherwise never meet. But the impersonality of the medium changes that meeting to something less -- well, less personal.

#2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior

In real life, most people are fairly law-abiding, either by disposition or because we're afraid of getting caught. And, perhaps because people sometimes forget that there's a human being on the other side of the computer, some people think that a lower standard of ethics or personal behavior is acceptable in cyberspace.

Be ethical : Don't believe anyone who says, "The only ethics out there are what you can get away with." if you encounter an ethical dilemma in cyberspace, consult the code you follow in real life.

Breaking the law is bad Netiquette : If you're tempted to do something that's illegal in cyberspace, chances are it's also bad Netiquette.

#3: You are not the center of cyberspace

When you're working hard on a project and deeply involved in it, it's easy to forget that other people have concerns other than yours.

You're taking up other people's time (or hoping to). It's your responsibility to ensure that the time they spend reading your posting isn't wasted.

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Don't expect instant responses to all your questions.

Don't assume that all readers will agree with, or care about, your passionate arguments.

#4: Make yourself look good, Share expert knowledge

Don't flame, or post flame-bait. Be courteous!

You may not be judged by the color of your skin, eyes, or hair, your weight, your age, or your clothing. You will, however, be judged by the quality of your writing. Use proper spelling and grammar.

Pay attention to the content of your writing. Be sure you know what you're talking about; bad information propagates like wildfire on the net. In addition, make sure your writing is clear and logical. It's perfectly possible to write a paragraph that contains no errors in grammar or spelling, but still makes no sense whatsoever.

#5: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes; Never be arrogant or self-righteous

When someone makes a mistake -- whether it's a spelling error, a silly question or an unnecessarily long answer -- be kind about it. If you feel strongly about it, think twice before reacting.

If you do decide to inform someone of a mistake, point it out politely, and preferably by private email rather than in public. Give people the benefit of the doubt; assume they just don't know any better.

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