



Success Strategies for Online Courses

Set a Schedule

When you don't have to physically go to class at scheduled times when taking online courses, it can be easy to lose track of things. To avoid this, set times on your schedule to focus on your course. An in-person, 3-credit hour course is commonly held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the same time of day for approximately one hour. So, if you were taking this course online, schedule one hour to reviewing course material three times per week. By doing this, you are creating the necessary time to review course materials and set yourself up for success.

Find a Study Spot

The world around us is a very busy place. Eliminate distractions and keep your concentration by finding a dedicated study area. Go to this area as much as possible to study, work on assignments and anything else related to your course.

Minimize Distractions

It's easy to get sidetracked by distractions such as TV and phones, so it's important to turn these off or put them away during the time you have dedicated for course study on your schedule.

Take Notes

Many online courses don't have scheduled lectures, so it can be easy to forget to take notes. Don't make this costly mistake! Even though the material may be available for you to refer back to, making your own notes will improve your understanding and recall of the material being taught.

Use Your Resources

Reach out to your professors and take advantage of virtual meeting opportunities. Also, many programs have resources pages for their students, so be sure to utilize these resources if they are available. Additionally, you can reach out the Office of Graduate Student Success for support. Just send an email to gradsuccess.sas@olemiss.edu and let us know how we can help!

Keep Track of Due Dates

At the beginning of the course, add all known due dates and deadlines to your calendar. Additionally, if new due dates or changes to due dates occur during the course, add or adjust your calendar ASAP. By doing this, you help ensure that your assignments, exams and other coursework items are submitted on time.

Check Your Email Often

By regularly checking your email, you stay up to date on important course announcements, changes and news. You should check your Ole Miss email every morning and evening to ensure you don't miss anything!

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help!

If you are struggling with the course material or need further clarification, don't hesitate to reach out to your professor! Even though you may not interact with your professor as much as you would in an in-person course, that doesn't mean you can't ask for help. After all, asking questions is essential for learning!