

## How to Succeed in an Online Course

Taking a class online is different from a typical campus class. Here are some characteristics of online learning:

1. Content is delivered differently. You must do more than sit in class and listen to a lecture. **You must enjoy being online** and reading on-screen.
2. You have to read the material, explore links, do assignments. No instructor is "in your face" requiring you to do the work. **You must be self-directed and self-motivated.**
3. One of the benefits, of course, is the flexibility, i.e., that you can sign on at any time.  
One of the detriments too is that you can sign on at any time, so it is easy to neglect! **You must have self-discipline and good time-management skills.**
4. Most online classes are **very interactive requiring daily discussions** between the participants. You can't be shy online.
5. **Expect to work hard.** Learning online is work, no doubt about it. It takes energy and perseverance.



Here are some tips for learning online successfully:

1. **Set aside a specific time of day to participate.** Schedule 1-2 hours per day to attend your online class and stick to it. Don't forget the extra hour a day to work homework problems!
2. **Come to class prepared** by reading the text material before logging on.
3. Learn to be a noisy student! **Ask questions** and dialog with your classmates on the discussion board. This is a key learning tool and advantage to an online course. You can ask more questions than you could ever find time to in a campus class.
4. You can nod online ... **react to other's messages** with an "I agree", "Good point", or "Explain further what you mean by". Make your online learning more valuable by contributing your comments to the conversation.
5. **Make this class a top priority.** Don't procrastinate or let deadlines slide! Getting even one day behind, the result may be irreparable.
6. Also see [Is eLearning Right for Me?](#) from the Clark College eLearning Department.

If you have the skills necessary to learn online, and make the class a top priority, you can be successful and reap the rewards of e-learning -- flexibility, portability, and financial advantages :) Have fun! You can do it!

[Reference: Draves, William A. Teaching Online. Wisconsin: LERN Books, 2000.]