

Tips For Online Classes

Online courses are growing in popularity at colleges. At Fresno State, students often access their online courses on a platform called Canvas. Online courses may seem like an easy, convenient alternative to a traditional face-to-face lecture class. But they require responsibility, self-discipline, and self-motivation. Ever heard statements like these about online classes?

Online Learning Myths

1. “I can just stay home, sleep in, and study at night. I don’t have to go to school.”

Yes, but the campus has plenty of resources to help with your class. If you stay home for online classes, you need a reliable computer, internet connection, and study pace. The campus has all that and more.

2. “I can do my work whenever I want.”

Sort of. You can start a lot of assignments whenever you want. But online classes still have deadlines to finish your work. And when Canva timestamps the work you submit, it doesn’t make exceptions: If your work is due at midnight, 12:01 is too late.

3. “The online class is so easy, it’s a lot less work than the regular class.”

No, “online” does not mean “easy.” “Regular” does not mean “hard.” Online is just a different format. The professors still want you to learn the same topics you learn in a face-to-face class. Many students spend more time on an online class because they have to participate frequently in discussion boards and other activities.

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN ONLINE CLASSES

Is online learning for You? Take this quiz at bit.ly/isonlinelearningforyou
Campus Support: <http://fresnostate.edu/academics/canvas/> OR 559.278.5000

Set aside time to be “in class”

Treat your online class like a face-to-face lecture class. Use this time to log on to Canva, participate in discussion boards, or e-mail your classmates or professor.

Interact with others in the class

In Canvas, you can find a class roster and send messages to your professor, a classmate, or the whole class. Find a study buddy! Just be careful about what you send through Canvas and who you send it to.

Use technology to make learning fun

Canvas isn’t the only online learning tool. Some classes use Zoom for live meetings, YouTube videos for lecture material and online polls. Think about using some of these free online apps: Khan Academy, Evernote, Quizlet, Study Blue, Screencast-O-Matic, etc.