

Advice for Academic Success in Online Courses

During the spring of 2020, most of you were forced to take online courses due to efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 on college campuses, as well as in high schools. Some of you were able to adapt to a new way of learning that was thrust upon you without warning, and others understandably struggled. Since all or most of your courses will be online this fall, below are several resources to help foster success in online courses. Among the most common suggestions are the following:

- Identify a regular study space
- Eliminate distractions
- Keep track of course deadlines
- Make a schedule that includes your scheduled online courses, as well as when you will do the work required for each
- Take notes
- Communicate regularly with faculty as needed
- Form virtual study groups

[10 Study Tips for Succeeding in Online College Classes | University of Cincinnati](#)

[11 Techniques to Be Successful in Online Classes](#)

[How to Study for an Online Class: 13 Steps \(with Pictures\)](#)

[21 Tips for Online Classes Success | How to Study](#)

[Tips for Successful Online Learning](#)

[Tips for Taking Online Classes: 8 Strategies for Success](#)

[What Makes a Successful Online Learner?](#)

Take some time to read through the various resources, as well as any resources that your college or university offers. Solicit advice from brothers who did well in their online courses last spring, and then develop your own plan for excelling in your online courses. To quote one of the above resources: *"Persistence is perhaps the biggest key to success in online learning. Students who succeed are those who are willing to tolerate technical problems, seek help when needed, work daily on every class, and persist through challenges."* You've got this!

Advice for Deciding When to Take a Course Pass/Fail

In response to COVID-19, many colleges and universities allowed students more flexibility with taking courses "pass/fail." It is possible that some institutions will offer similar flexibility during this academic year. The decision to take a course pass/fail should be made carefully because of its potential impact on your future aspirations. For example, if you are seeking admission to a certain major or program at your institution, taking certain classes pass/fail may have an impact. If you are interested in graduate school or professional school (such as medical or law school), taking classes pass/fail could have ramifications for how your application is evaluated. Below are several resources that provide helpful advice for you to consider if you are thinking about whether to take courses pass/fail. If you are thinking about taking a course pass/fail, please consult with an academic advisor from your institution, and consider any guidance provided by your school before making the decision.

[How Will Pass/Fail Affect Students' Future?](#)

[Pass/Fail Grades May Help Students During the COVID-19 Crisis, But Could Cost Them Later](#)

[What Is a Pass/Fail Option? How to Pass/Fail Classes](#)

[When to Take a College Course Pass/Fail](#)