How to be a Successful Online Graduate Student

Being an online graduate student can be a very rewarding experience. It can also be challenging when students are juggling career, family, and other responsibilities. It is important to utilize tools that are available in order to be successful.

Proper Preparation
The first step in becoming a successful student is to be properly prepared. Students should familiarize themselves with the course navigation and classroom design. Review the course objectives and expectations. Print the syllabus, learning materials, calendar detailing assignment deadlines, and other materials that may be helpful before starting the class. Please do not wait until after the course starts to begin preparing.

Log on to class regularly
Students are required to log in to class weekly and participate in threaded discussions with other students complete learning assignments. Successful students establish a habit of logging in on a daily basis to engage in their online course. Active participation is the key to becoming a successful student.

Class Participation
The online environment can be an exciting learning platform where students can contribute and express themselves freely. Please keep discussions polite and respectful. Take the program and yourself seriously.

Speak up if experiencing problems
Successful students speak up at the first sign of challenges or concerns. Please bring concerns to the attention of your instructor, the IT department, or the Graduate program staff to assist in resolving concerns. Keep in mind that we do not know if there are issues if they aren’t brought to our attention. We are here to assist you in being successful and need to know if you are having problems.

Share experiences and apply what you learn
As an adult learner you have a variety of life experiences that are valuable to share with other learners and your instructor. Please contribute when appropriate and use what you learn from your graduate courses to apply to your current employment experiences.

Academic Integrity
Please review the entire Graduate catalog and familiarize yourself with academic policies, procedures, and expectations. It is critical that as a Graduate student you are familiar with and completely understand academic integrity issues specifically involving plagiarism and cheating. The University takes academic integrity seriously. When writing papers, cite sources and if in doubt ask your instructor. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) has specific tools addressing APA format.