Online Learning at Saint Louis University

The faculty and staff at SLU acknowledge the hard work you put into transitioning to remote learning during the Spring 2020 semester. Online courses are structured somewhat differently than the Spring 2020 remote learning courses. This information is designed to assist in your preparation for classes offered partially or fully online.

## What to Expect from an Online Course

- **Asynchronous Delivery**: Typically, online courses are delivered asynchronously, or time-independent, so you may not have a regularly scheduled meeting time, or scheduled meeting times are infrequent.
- **Deadlines**: Although online courses tend to be asynchronous in nature, you will still have timelines and deadlines for completing assignments.
- **Interaction**: Online courses are designed to facilitate student-student, student-instructor, and student-content interactions, therefore you can anticipate interactions with other students and with the instructor throughout the course.
- **Access Your Course Frequently**: You should expect to log-in to your online course site several times a week, daily for some courses. This is where you will receive your course assignments, lectures, readings, and where you will interact with your instructor and fellow classmates. Specific instructions about how frequently you should engage will come from your instructor.
- **Instructor Engagement**: In asynchronous courses there may be periods of time when it feels like you are working, but your fellow students or instructor aren't. In fact, other students and instructors are doing the same things they do when we are all on campus, but their work just is not as visible. Instructors are quite busy throughout the course connecting to students to check progress, responding to student questions, providing feedback to students, and making sure the next learning activities are ready.

Preparing Your Technology and Workspace

- **Internet and Computer Access**: You will need regular, usually daily, access to the internet and a computer. A laptop or desktop computer is necessary, online courses typically cannot be completed using only a phone or tablet (iPad). The [SLU Distance Education](#) student website has more information on minimum technology requirements and bandwidth recommendations. If your courses require synchronous engagement, you also may need a webcam and benefit from a headset.
- **Get Oriented**: Your online courses in Blackboard typically include information about technology support, student support resources, and the basics of using Blackboard. Review these before starting the course.
- **Workspace**: Designate a distraction-free work space (as much as possible) to assist with your ability to concentrate on the course and learning.

Preparing to Succeed

- **Get organized.** Read the syllabus at the start of the course and take note of all assignments and exams. Keep track of due dates.
- **Manage your time**. Establish a schedule, block off time each day or every few days, to complete course readings and assignments. Stay on track, if you fall behind in an online course, it is difficult to catch up.
- **Take a break.** Don't forget to include some downtime in your schedule to help you recharge. This will give you a boost to tackle your next task.
- **Be engaged**. Actively participate in your online course. This includes contributing to discussion boards, emailing your professor, and checking your SLU email daily.
- **Practice "Netiquette," be clear and professional in all interactions online**. Remember that you cannot rely on body language to convey information, since everyone is learning virtually. Type, revise, then send.
- **Maintain academic integrity**. Your online courses will require you to abide by the University [Academic Integrity Policy](#).
- **Pause your social media (unless it's for class**). Minimizing this distraction will allow you to optimize your study time and engagement with the course.
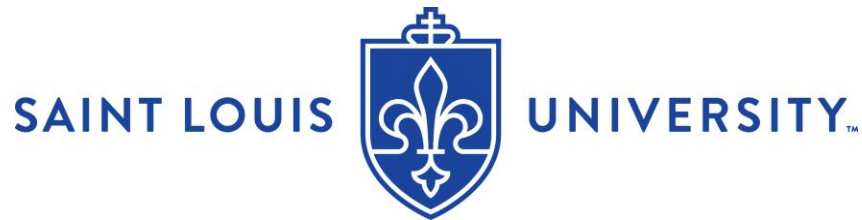
Additional Tools

Tutoring: You have access to a free online tutoring service, Smarthinking through your Blackboard course site.

The Department of Academic Support is also providing virtual student success coaching and writing consultations.

Accommodations: If you have an approved accommodation, notify your instructor. If you have not yet registered with Disability Services, schedule an appointment with a Disability Services staff member through EAB Navigate. For any questions, contact disability_services@slu.edu.

Need assistance?

If you have questions regarding online learning during your course, reach out to your instructor for help.

For more tips on how to manage your online class, you can consult the student information resources on the SLU Distance Education site.

Higher Purpose. Greater Good.™