

Strategies For Success In Online Courses AJ120 - Introduction to the Administration of Justice

Welcome to the virtual classroom! Online courses are very different from classes that meet in a traditional classroom and on a regular schedule. There are certainly strong advantages and disadvantages with each, but if this is your first online course, it would be worth your time to consider a few strategies to make your online experience a good one. I've completed two advantaged college degree programs entirely online. I believe in online learning, but recognize it is not for everyone. If you have poor time management skills or have a habit of procrastinating, then online learning is not for you. If you learn best from the discussions and small group activities that take place in a classroom, then online learning is not the best for you.

Since you have chosen to take this course online, let me share with you what I see are the advantages and give you some suggestions for how to be successful.

Advantages

- Online courses don't require your physical attendance in a classroom and usually have broad timelines that provide tremendous flexibility within which to complete course assignments.
- Online students can complete course work at anytime; day or night.
- Online learning is very independent and a more individualized experience.
- Online learning provides uninhibited and non-competitive access to the instructor. You can ask questions as they arise without fear of judgment from fellow students and without having to compete for access to class time.

Strategies For Success

- Time management is critical. Pay close attention to course deadlines and plan time in your schedule each week for reading, completing assignments, and taking tests.
- Don't get behind. It is essential that you complete course work by the date it is due.
- Test your technology. Reliable access to a computer and the Internet is required. Don't enroll or start an online course before thoroughly testing your access to the required computer technology.
- Realize that online courses require as much or more time to complete as a course that meets in a traditional classroom. Don't under estimate the amount of time you will need to be successful.
- Put forth your best effort in every assignment you submit. Remember, your entire grade is based on the quality of work you submit. Proof read all written work. If you submit work via email, use a word processing program with spell check to write and then copy and paste your final draft into the email.
- Communicate with your instructor. Although your instructor cannot help you with time management or technology problems, he or she is there to answer questions about the course.

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