Smart Strategies for Online Learning Success

1. Log in Daily

Log in and engage with the course at least once every day to make the most of your experience.

2. Schedule Time Each Day to Complete Your Coursework

While online courses give you the flexibility to work on the course wherever and whenever you wish, there are deadlines and due dates just like in your other courses. You will get the most out of the course by observing the due dates and moving through the course at about the same pace as your classmates.

Make sure that you are aware of the course due dates and plan your time accordingly. You're probably involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, theater, debate team, etc., and there will be times that are busier for you. Plan accordingly so you can keep up with coursework. If you know you will be unable to access the course for a period of time, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

Example: Scott's Study Schedule:

Where and When I Will Complete My Coursework

Sunday: After dinner at the kitchen table

Monday-Thursday: After dinner in the library

Friday: After school at the kitchen table

Saturday: In the morning after breakfast

3. Participate

The best way to actively engage with your instructor and your classmates is by reflecting upon and making meaningful contributions to course discussion forums. There are three primary reasons why this is true. First, you will deepen your learning and create stronger connections with your classmates by exchanging ideas with your peers in discussions. Second, discussions are considered part of "class participation". In fact, they are often an integral part of your instructor's final evaluation of your work at the end of the course. Third, your ability to intelligently contribute to discussion is a vital social and professional skill, regardless of your career choice; think of this online course is an opportunity to start (or continue) to work on that skill.