Getting prepared for online learning

By Nicole Crozier & Alex Warrington

for May Orientation 2021
Hello!

I am Nicole Crozier

- Coordinator, Curriculum and Communications, Office of Student Life
- Currently pursuing M.Ed in Educational Technology
- Completed 2.5 online programs
What to expect in this session:

1. What to do on the first day of classes
2. Getting set up for success with online learning
3. Introduction to Brightspace, UVic’s learning management system
Let’s lay a little bit of groundwork
1. Introduction

Polls
2+ million
Canadian students will take an online course this fall

98%
of Canadian students will take an online course this fall

100%
of Canadian post-secondary institutions will be offering courses online
2. The first day

Getting started with online learning
2.
The first day
Polls
Finding your courses

- Most courses will have a course site in Brightspace. These sites should show up by the first day of classes.
- Some professors may email their classes ahead of the first day. Others won’t.
- Any Zoom links required for the course will typically be found in Brightspace.
# Day 1 tasks

**Asynchronous or synchronous?**

Figure out whether your courses are being offered synchronously, or asynchronously.

Show up for synchronous classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections Found in Economics</th>
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<th>Classes found in Academic and Technical Writing</th>
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<td><strong>Select</strong></td>
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**Scheduled Meeting Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Schedule Type</th>
<th>Instructors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Week</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Sep 09, 2020 - Dec 04, 2020</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Valerie M Irvine (P), Michael Paskevicius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Figure out what’s next!
Once you’ve read the syllabus and any announcements from the professor, you can begin making a plan for the course!
3. Set up for success

Tangible tips for mitigating challenges
Digital literacy

The capabilities that fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society
Tangible tips

1. Know your tech
   - Test, practice, and explore any technologies you will be using… before you need to use them.
   - Don’t be afraid to experiment!
   - Use Google to help you problem solve (or your preferred search engine)
Tangible tips

2. Create your systems

- Create a notetaking system that works for you
- Create a file system that works for you
- Don’t make your system too complicated to use
- Don’t be afraid to change your system if it’s not working for you
Tangible tips

3. Find the shortcuts

- Don’t waste your time doing things the long way over and over again. Take the time to learn a better way!
- From keyboard shortcuts, to Microsoft 365 tricks, the internet has lots of advice. Spend a little bit of time taking it in!
Time management

Poll
Time management

● Students underestimate the time commitment and rigour of online learning
● Time is often less structured for students then when on-campus
● Less peer influence on how they spend their time
Tangible tips

1. Get an accurate time estimate
   - Check with your professor about what their expectations are
   - Look at what you have to do each week for each course and determine how long you think it will take
   - Always overestimate
Tangible tips

2. Create a weekly schedule

- Make a plan for every week
- Stick to the plan 😊
Tangible tips

3. Create structure

● Designate regular times or times to work on specific courses

● Create a designated study spot in your home.

● Schedule regular study dates
Tangible tips

4. Reduce distractions

● Identify your time sucks (aka Netflix)

● Find ways to reduce or eliminate these distractions during your study time

● Ex. Phone-free zone, website blockers, time trackers
Community & peer connections

- Students find it more difficult to connect with other students; one-to-one interactions are rare
- Connection requires greater effort and intentionality
- Interactions are more drawn out
Tangible tips

1. Be the first one to reach out
   - Use your course discussion boards to connect with peers
   - Create study groups
   - Visit office hours
Tangible tips

2. Use the tools that you have

- Use your UVic Zoom account to plan virtual study sessions with peers
- You’re probably already a social media expert
4. Brightspace

Let’s explore the platform
Key resources & supports

- Visit Learn Anywhere for all of our resources
- Self-register for the UVic Technology Guide for Students in Brightspace
- Register for workshops available to students in Learning Central
- Check the list of all resources offered by LTSI
Thanks!

Any questions?