

Student-To-Student Tips for Success in Online College Classes

Online college degree programs gained in popularity during the start of the COVID pandemic. Today, many colleges offer fully online or hybrid degree programs.

Online learning can be challenging for many students, and even more so for those with disabilities. When you take an online course, there are ways to get support if the online learning environment is not the best fit for your learning style. Here are some tips from a current college student with a learning disability (dyslexia) who has taken online classes successfully.

- Ask for support from your college’s disabilities services office
- Talk to professors about how you learn best, and explain how they can support you in their class
- Ask if professors can post their presentations online through the digital learning spaces your school uses, such as D2L, Brightspace, or Canvas
- Find out if you can have a note-taker or have professor notes provided to you
- Look into study groups for your classes when preparing for an exam. Make use of those groups as much as possible.
- Attend your professors’ office hours for extra support and help (in person or virtual)
- Many colleges offer tutoring support through their academic support centers in person and online. Tutoring support is provided by other students who have previously taken the class or similar classes successfully. For example, if you need support for a math class, a student who is familiar with that course content and requirements can help you.
- Most schools offer tutoring support for writing, math, and science in a variety of ways, from helping you understand homework to talking through concepts you might be struggling with
- Many colleges have a writing center dedicated to helping students with writing assignments. They are staffed with individuals who can help with things like grammar, punctuation, flow of information, and sentence structure.
- Advocate for what you need. Accommodations or supports that are available won’t be offered to you; they will only be provided if you ask for them.
- Ask for help as soon as you are aware you have concerns. Don’t wait until you are failing or falling behind.

For more helpful tips for college students enrolled in online undergraduate and graduate courses, check out these resources:

- [10 Tips for Effective Online Learning](#)
from the University of Minnesota Bootcamp
- [Tips for Taking Online Classes: 8 Strategies for Success](#)
from Northeastern University in Boston, MA
- [The ADA, Section 504 & Post-Secondary Education](#)
from PACER Center
- [Types of College Accommodations and Services](#)
from Understood
- [Pros and Cons of Online College for Students Who Think and Learn Differently](#)
from Understood