

Distance Education

Tips for Online Student Learning Success

Time Management

Set aside specific days and times to log in and work on your class assignments. Don't fall for the trap of waiting for a "good time" to study. For many adult with kids and jobs, there is no "good time" to study. Set aside days and times that don't conflict with work and your kid's schedule. We suggest spending 3 to 8 hours per week studying. Treat missing your online class just like missing an in-person class, only when there is an unexpected emergency.

Study Environment

Distance Education students have the benefit of being able to study anywhere at any time, but you must have a place to study that limits distractions. Create a personal study space free from family distractions and electronic distractions like t.v or phones. You need a place that you can put your full attention into your work for one or two hours straight with no distractions.

Communication

Much of the communication while in an online program is written, email or messages in the platform. Be Clear! Make sure Aspire staff can understand your question fully and give a proper response. Don't wait! You can't wait until the last minute to ask questions when doing Distance Education. Follow Up! If you don't get a response in a reasonable time frame, follow up with the Aspire staff.

Motivation

You must be very self-motivated and self-aware to be a good online student. Set short and long term goals with realistic time frames to meet them. You have to be realistic and recognize and accept academic deficiencies. If you start online class with work that is too hard for you, you will quickly get frustrated. Understand that the process may take time, but with your hard work and dedication it is possible!

Personal Support

Whether taking classes online or in person, finding a support network is the key to success! Aspire staff are just one of the resources you need for success in distance education. There will be times when you need support immediately and someone you know personally may be your best support. When you start the process of distance education, ask family, friends, and coworkers if they will support you in your journey.

Use Internet Resources

Again, Aspire staff will support you in your distance education journey, but you cannot rely on them for instant support since you are separated by time and location. To be a successful online student you will have to learn to take advantage of resources available on the Internet to help you 24/7. In addition to the resources on the online learning platform (Edmentum or Khan Academy), you can also use Google, YouTube, and other online resource for immediate support. Make sure you are using resources online that are creditable so you know you are getting correct information!

Don't Cheat Yourself!

Notice I did not say don't cheat. You are completing work online with the Internet and anyone you want to help you in person. If you rely on the Internet or another person to answer questions on your assignments without you understanding the concept, then you are cheating yourself out of knowledge. If your goal is to pass an exam, like the GED or WorkKeys, you won't have access to the Internet or other support when you take that test. Use the Internet and other people to support you by helping you understand the work you are doing.

Blended Learning

Blended learning is when you participate in both in-person classes and distance education instruction at the same time. Data has shown that Aspire students who attend classes in person and complete additional work online have more success than students who do online distance education only. Consider attending classes in person at least one or two days a week. Having the chance to talk to an instructor and other students in person is very helpful and allows you to be a part of a learning community.