Being an Online College Student – Traditional or Non-Traditional
Taking online college courses—especially as a working adult or parent—comes with unique challenges and responsibilities. Success starts with understanding what to expect and how to adapt.

What to Expect:

- No one will remind you to log in, complete assignments, or watch lectures—it's up to you to stay on track.

- You'll need to reach out for help when you're stuck—don't wait for someone to notice.

- You're responsible for reading course materials, watching lectures, and taking notes.

- If you miss a deadline due to illness, work, or family responsibilities, communicate with your instructor as early as possible.

- Life will compete for your attention—managing your time between school, work, and home is essential.

Keys to Success:

- Log in to your courses regularly and keep up with announcements and assignments.

- Meet all deadlines—online classes move fast.

- Participate in online discussions and group projects to stay connected.

- Read the textbook and course materials carefully; take notes just as you would in a classroom.

- Connect with classmates via discussion boards or study groups—community matters, even online.

- Set aside consistent weekly study time—protect it like a work shift.

- Don't hesitate to ask for help—support services are there for you.

- Learn the online platform and college policies so you can navigate smoothly.

Where to Find Support:

- Your instructor (via email or office hours)

- Your academic advisor

- Counseling services

- Fellow classmates or online study groups

- The tutoring center

- Student Support Services

Time Management Tips:

- Create a realistic weekly schedule that fits your life—be honest about your time.

- Plan for **2–3 hours of study per credit hour per week**. A 3-credit course = 6–9 hours weekly.

- Don't cram—start reviewing for exams days or even weeks in advance.

- Use calendars, reminders, and to-do lists to stay organized.

Effective time management is key to thriving as an online college student!