Being a Student in A Virtual Classroom

Being a student in a virtual classroom requires good time management, a willingness to engage in new ways, and a positive attitude. Here are some expectations and suggestions on how to be a good online class citizen.

* Pay attention to the announcements your faculty will post before each class! These will clearly communicate what you’ll need to do for your classes that day.

* “Attending” class online doesn’t mean just signing into Canvas -- that is the virtual equivalent of just “showing up.” What it really means is *participating* -- in discussion board posts or in collaborative activities and synchronous sessions when possible, and in engaging in the materials. Try to be present and engaged!

* If your course meets twice a week, you will be expected to participate in two engaging class activities (in addition to homework); if your class meets three times a week, you’ll probably have three. Make a schedule for juggling the various activities you’ll need to complete for all of your courses, noting relevant due dates.

* Some online courses are taught *synchronously*, meaning that there are components (a Zoom session or chat, for example) that happen in real-time; some are taught *asynchronously*, meaning that while you’ll be given clear deadlines for completing an activity, *how* and *when* you complete it is entirely up to you: in your p.j.s at 3:00 am, while eating ice cream if you so choose. Some classes will combine synchronous and asynchronous activities -- both types of online learning are great and have advantages; trust that your instructors will choose the method that best suits the content and goals of your course.

* Office hours might change but faculty will still be available, not only via email but also at specific scheduled times when you can call or video conference. They will let you know when and how it’s best to reach them (and if they don’t, ask them!)

* Ask your instructor if SI will be held on-line for your classes. Also, continue with your weekly appointments if you see an academic coach at ACE, respond to your academic and faculty advisors when they write to you, and seek help in the writing Center and the QR center using their on-line appointment functions. Finally, instructors will continue to give you useful feedback via Navigate, so please, read it and follow it.

* If you email an instructor outside of scheduled office hours, you should receive a response within 24 hours during the “work week” -- expect a longer response time during the weekend. If you are having difficulties reaching your professors, please contact the Center Director for that faculty member to ask for help reaching out.

Finally, remember: your instructors are new at this too, and teaching and learning remotely for a week are out of almost *everyone’s* comfort zone, **so be flexible, be patient with your classmates, staff, and faculty, and be present in the virtual classroom**. We really appreciate all that the faculty and staff are doing in such a short period of time! There are many positives that will come out of this experience -- you’ll have fun with this!

Using Canvas:

<https://canvas.goucher.edu/courses/10/pages/student-faqs>