Instructor Resource to Help Students: 5 Tips for Students

Transitioning to Your Online/Remote Learning Courses

Instructors and Learning Strategists care about your transition to the University of Toronto online/remote environment and want to assist you in your learning during these challenging times. More detailed support and services are embedded in this document.

1. **Consider your study space. How might you optimize it?**
   - Minimize distractions by using website blocking or focus apps.
   - Log out of your social media accounts while you attend your online classes or do your school work.
   - For tips on concentration, time management and motivation: http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc/studying

2. **What changes has your Course Instructor made in transitioning to online/remote teaching?**
   - Check in often with your course home page, discussion boards, announcements and inbox.
   - Investigate everything your Instructor has made available.
   - Ensure you’ve turned on your Quercus notifications: https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-guide#your-responsibility
   - Check if your Instructor is offering virtual office hours.

3. **Explore the different interfaces being used in your courses** (e.g. Quercus, Blackboard Collaborate, Zoom, etc.)
   - If you can, try out connections in advance of lectures and meetings.
   - To find help: https://qstudents.utoronto.ca/troubleshooting/#more-1596

4. **To stay on track with both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) lectures:**
   - Try adhering to your previous schedule and include routine and mini-deadlines for times to complete coursework.
   - Use the video lecture control features that are available to suit your learning preferences (e.g., pause, repeat, forward/progress).
   - Utilize your existing time management and planning system. Consider using the Quercus calendar, including tasks and reminders.

5. **You will benefit from interacting with people in your classes.**
   - Find out how to ask questions (e.g., raise your hand virtually, use the chat function, etc.).
You might encourage your Instructor to open a discussion on Quercus or set up a session in Blackboard Collaborate that students can join.

Quercus Groups: If you have been placed into a group for your course, you can communicate with your peers from inside your Group space using Discussions, Announcements, and Pages. To learn more: Group Tool: Student View.

Seek help: instructors are interested in hearing from you. You’re likely not the only student with a question.

Resources to further support your learning

Student Life

- Learning Strategist 1:1 appointments. Login to CLNx (then Appointments/Academic Success).
  - Or check with your Arts and Science college or professional faculty for appointments.
  - UTSC
  - UTM

- Themed Discussions on learning skills: group chats facilitated by a Learning Strategist. Students’ questions drive the agenda. Login to CLNx (then Events and Workshops (St. George)/Academic Success).

- Graduate Writing Groups are running virtually. Register at gwg@utoronto.ca. Full details can be found online.

- For recent changes in Student Life services (e.g., Academic Success, Health and Wellness)

Visit Accessibility Services:

- St. George
- UTM
- UTSC

For Assignments and Essays

- Assignment Calculator: to help you plan your work, stay on track, and meet your deadline
- Writing Centres
- Libraries offer virtual support

Feeling Distress?

- For immediate, off-campus support