GS Tips for Succeeding as an Online or Blended Student

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Characteristics of CGOAL Courses

What is the format of adult and graduate courses?

All A&GS courses are delivered in an accelerated format (with a few exceptions). The length of the course is determined by the course credit load. For example, a 2-credit course is 4 weeks long, a 3-credit course is 6 weeks long, and a 4-credit course is 8 weeks long. You will have access to all weekly materials and activities throughout the entire course. You should expect to spend 18-20 hours per week to complete the course requirements.

A&GS courses are offered in online, blended, or on-site formats depending on the program that you are enrolled in.

- In online courses, all course activities take place online and assignments are typically due in the middle and at the end of each week.
- In blended courses, many of the activities take place online and class meetings take place one night per week at 6:00 pm on the UNW campus. Assignments are typically due before the weekly class meeting.
- In on-site courses, there are no online activities, class meetings take place one night per week at 6:00 pm on the UNW campus, and assignments are typically due before the weekly class meeting.

A&GS courses follow a continuous cohort model.

Common Course Elements

What academic resources are available in every course?

At the top of every course site you will find four icons that link to academic resources that you will need to succeed here at UNW:

- **Academic Information**: Semester Calendar, Catalogs, Citation Resources, Achieving the Best in Your Writing, Library Research Introduction Video, More Library Tutorials, Course Etiquette
- **Student Services**: ALPHA Center, Career Development, Campus Store, Counseling Services, DOSS, Library, PrayerWorks, Other Services
- **Student Orientations**: Graduate Studies Orientation, Moodle Orientation

What communication tools are available in every course?

All course sites contain the following three forums:

- **Announcements**: This forum is where your instructor will post weekly announcements and important reminders throughout the course. Be sure to check it often and read all of the announcements. Only your instructor can post in this forum.
Tips from Faculty

What do my instructors want me to know?

“Successful students embrace being a life-long learner, advocate for their individual learning needs, and provide unique/challenging insights in the assignments.”

“Students who have self-discipline, a willingness to use available resources, and the ability to make the class sessions a priority tend to be successful.”

“They need to value the course and their colleagues by being in every class and doing their share, including being on time, being prepared for the course content for that week and engaging with their professor and colleagues.”

“Expect to change and be changed in the learning environment.”

“Connect with as many people as possible.”

“Read the syllabus and assignment rubrics.”

“Come prepared to discuss the material, share experience, and don’t be afraid to ask questions.”

What are the characteristics of a successful student?

These are words that faculty members use when describing a successful student.
Writing Helps

How can I improve my writing skills?

In almost any course you take, you’ll be required to write. Yet, good writing goes well beyond academics and into nearly every profession. The resource, Achieving the Best in Your Writing, offers you ways to improve your critical thinking and written communication skills, reduce frustrations or anxiety about writing, and increase your efficiency in producing compelling and original written work.

The lessons in the three units of this training ground provide the following to help you through some hard-to-navigate topics in academic and professional writing:

1. Advice, tips, and strategies
2. Tools and resources you can efficiently reference as needed
3. Practical examples of both what to do and what to avoid

You are encouraged to check out this training resource before classes begin and come back to it as needed after your get started in your courses.