



NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT WEEK 2020

How to Learn Online

Preparing to Be an Online Student

As a nontraditional student, you may be unfamiliar with how to be a successful online learner. Online learning requires you to prepare for a different student skillset and responsibilities compared to face-to-face learning. We have provided resources for you to learn how to prepare for your online journey. We recommend practicing time management and persistence, creating a learning schedule, planning to work with less direct support, and familiarizing yourself with the technologies that you will use in your coursework. We all want to see you succeed!

Being a Learner Online

As you begin your online coursework, we have several recommendations to help you in your learning journey! It is important to know where and when to contact your support systems and resources. One source of support are program pages dedicated to current students. Also, it's always great to keep open a channel of communication between your faculty and success coaches. Within your online course, we recommend that you check your course for updates on a regular basis, practice using required technology, and have fun along your journey!

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Amanda S

Program: Master of Science in Health and Wellness Management



What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

This program is allowing me to learn at a pace that works for my stay at home mom life. I have two small boys, 6 & 8 years old, a household to run and I'm a part time fitness instructor as well so being able to complete the work on my own time is invaluable. In addition, there are not many programs like this one in existence quite yet and living in Los Angeles, I am able to participate without moving to Green Bay or leaving my family. I am also still able to go on family vacations and travel while maintaining my schoolwork

What have you enjoyed most about your current program?

I am currently in my last year of the masters program in Health and Wellness Management. After finding my passion and calling of a career in health and wellness at the ripe age of 36, I find that I am deeply fascinated by the content of the course and am soaking it up like a dry sponge desperate for water. While being a mom is very fulfilling, participating in and completing this program gives me something for me.



[More Student Spotlights](#)



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Tips for Success

- Find ways to build course time into your work, family and other schedules. Expect to spend at least 9 hours per week on coursework (depending on the number of credits per course).
- Have access to important dates such as drop dates and book return policies. Use a calendar to easily keep track of important dates, such as drop dates, book return dates, and assignment due dates.
- Assess your technology skills and address areas of concern.
- Make sure that you have the proper equipment and internet service needed to take your course.
- Contact your instructor, success coaches, technical support, and others if you encounter difficulties. Persistence is key! Champion your learning!

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jason V

Program: Master of Science in Data Science



What have you enjoyed most about your current program?

I've enjoyed the diversity of learning topics. We aren't focused entirely on any one aspect of data science but rather we get a rounded education across many topics, languages, statistical concepts, etc. The benefit to this is that by having in-depth exposure to many methods we gain a really great toolbox that can be applied to a variety of problems. I've really enjoyed that the program is quite rigorous and that although we're spanning many topics the level of learning required in each area remains high.

What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

The ability to work hard in my own environment. I don't have to spend time or energy traveling or packing a bag. Instead, after work, I can just log in to my computer and start learning.

What keeps you going?

I suppose it is my intense desire to keep learning. Had I not done a program, I probably would have spent my time continuously learning. It luckily works out that all that learning will also pay off in the form of a degree.



[More Student Spotlights](#)



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Resources to Learn More

Approaching Online Learning as a Nontraditional Student:

[Frequently Asked Questions About Online Learning](#)

[Keeping Learning Online Tip Sheet](#)

[Tips for Taking Online Classes: 8 Strategies for Success](#)

[Getting the Most Out of Your Online Learning](#)

Setting Your Schedule:

[Weekly Calendar Document](#)

UW Extended Campus Program Specific Resources:

Current Student Pages: [Collaborative](#), [Flexible Option](#) & [Independent Learning](#)

Technology Requirements: [Collaborative](#) & [Flexible Option](#)

Assignment Support:

[WISC Online Writing Lab](#) – for students in our Collaborative, Flexible Option, and Independent Learning programs)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Maribel C

Program: Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management and Technology



What do you find most valuable about completing your degree online?

The improved quality of time, a better learning environment, cost, and time-savings are just a few of what I find most valuable about completing my degree online. I went to a traditional school when I completed my first degree in which I attended each class and listened to lectures. It was a great experience. I had a lot of fun, but I was in my teens then, but I am now a different person. I value the peace in my home and learn at my own pace. By studying online, I must say that I have an easier time learning faster because I can focus intently on the subject matter and without any disruptions. I can also re-watch lectures, review study materials as much as I wanted. As a result, I can engage more in the study material and can reinforce in-depth learning. This would not be possible at all in attending traditional classes. When you missed the point a professor discussed, there is no way you can replay it. Cost-savings is also another factor. Studying online saves me the money spent on transportation, parking, meals to name a few. Additionally, I can even study while engaging in other activities. One time I had to drive for hours out of town, I listened to the lecture's audio recording to make use of my travel time. By the time I reached my destination, I was already familiar with the subject matter saving me a tremendous amount of time. It is a cliché to say, but genuinely, time is money.

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