LEARNING ONLINE AT
OREGON STATE

A guide for on-campus students
taking online classes
Oregon State Ecampus is the online education unit at OSU and is considered one of the nation’s best providers of online education. Although the learning outcomes in Ecampus courses are identical to those in OSU’s on-campus classes, being an online learner requires some adjustment.

Set yourself up for success

**Preview the course site**
Course organization can differ quite a bit online. During the first days of class, take some time to log in to your online course site and learn how to navigate the contents. Find where all the lecture and lesson materials are located and figure out how to access and post to the discussion board.

**Your syllabus is your friend**
A course syllabus holds the keys to learning success and has all the information you need to set expectations for self-managing your studies. Develop a habit of using a syllabus as the guiding document for the class, and pay particular attention to technology expectations and assignment deadlines.

**Make a schedule**
You’ll need to designate your own class time and protect it from the rest of the demands on your time. Plan to spend 2-3 hours “in class” weekly for each course credit hour you are enrolled in online (e.g. 6-9 hours for a 3-credit class).

**Play an active role**
Make the extra effort to introduce yourself to the class. It might feel awkward to get started, but it will make your learning experience more positive. Engaging regularly with your classmates and instructor will help you understand the material better and find quick answers to your questions. And remember: always communicate online in a professional, courteous manner.

**How does it work?**
All Ecampus classes are delivered online through Canvas, the university’s learning management system (LMS). Get a preview of the online learning experience at Oregon State at ecampus.oregonstate.edu/demo.
Who can help?

Knowing where (and when) to find answers to your questions is vital as an online learner. Become familiar with your instructor’s preferred method of contact, and your course site might have a discussion forum where classmates can lend a hand.

Resources:
- Ecampus provides access to 24/7 tutoring help
- Academic Success Center: 102 Waldo Hall
- Ecampus Student Services: ecampus.oregonstate.edu/students
- Your academic advisor: main.oregonstate.edu/academic-advising

Top 5 myths about online classes

1. **Myth:** They won’t require much of my time.
   **Fact:** Online classes require just as much of a time commitment, if not more.

2. **Myth:** Internet access is all I need.
   **Fact:** You’ll need a dedicated, reliable computer for your studies (not just a tablet or smartphone).

3. **Myth:** They fit easily into my schedule.
   **Fact:** They’re flexible, but you should set a regular time to do course work.

4. **Myth:** They’re easier than on-campus classes.
   **Fact:** You will be held to the same academic standards of other OSU classes.

5. **Myth:** I can be anonymous in my class.
   **Fact:** Online classes generate rich discussions and a sense of community.
About OSU Ecampus

Oregon State Ecampus students are located in all 50 states and more than 40 countries, which means your online class likely will give you the opportunity to expand your worldview and benefit from the perspectives shared by classmates around the globe.

- Ecampus offers more than 900 online credit courses in over 90 subjects.
- 36 percent of on-campus students took at least one Ecampus class in 2014-15.
- Ecampus classes are developed by the same faculty who teach on campus.
- OSU is consistently ranked one of America’s best providers of online education.

Talk to your advisor
To ensure that online courses fit into your overall academic plan, meet with your academic advisor and discuss your options. The Ecampus schedule of classes is available at ecampus.oregonstate.edu/soc.