



GETTING STARTED



SPRING QUARTER 2020

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Spring quarter finds us in an extraordinarily unique context. We can agree that nobody signed up for these circumstances, yet here we are. Together, we must make the most of a less than ideal situation. Along with the resilience we will all need to navigate the quarter, we must also remember to embrace flexibility, patience, and compassion – for other students, our TAs, our instructors, our staff. We are all doing this for the first time.

While this journey on “Remote Learning” will be new to us, every university and all their students are on the same path. In fact, many workplaces and careers already feature “Virtual Collaboration,” so in some ways, this quarter will be an opportunity to prepare for futures beyond the undergraduate experience.

1 ORGANIZE AND MANAGE YOUR TIME



As we begin, it's important to consider that taking three or four courses remotely will be far different from taking an online or hybrid course amongst other traditional face-to-face courses. This will likely be more challenging than you anticipate, since the usual structures that anchor your day (i.e., in person lectures, on-campus work, exercise at the gym, etc.) will not be in place this quarter. We all need structure. You will need to impose structure in your life in order to maximize your learning. You might start by reflecting on when, where, and how will you learn and study?

You will want to manage your time, eliminate distractions, and limit social media. It may benefit you to keep the same course schedule as you would if you were attending face-to-face lectures, discussions, and labs. For example, if one of your course lectures is scheduled for Monday/Wednesday from 9:00 – 10:50, then keep that schedule. Whether the lectures will be live or not, you can still watch recorded videos or do the readings for that class during that same time period. Sticking to such a traditional schedule will help you maintain a familiar pace of learning. You've already committed to these times when you registered for these courses, so try to adhere to them.

You might organize the whole quarter by reading through your syllabi and mapping out all your assignments (e.g., papers, exams, presentations, group projects) and their due dates onto a one-page [Quarter Calendar \(fillable pdf\)](#). This will help you visualize the entire quarter at one glance, and you will quickly be able to determine the weeks that will require a lighter versus a heavier workload. You might also block out a [Weekly Schedule \(fillable pdf\)](#) and make a study plan with dedicated study blocks.

Lastly, you should consider your learning environment. It will be best to create a regular and quiet study space (which may be different places from class to class or morning to afternoon). Such a dedicated study space (or spaces) and routine can serve as a type of structure that will otherwise be absent.

2 CHECK YOUR TECH



While you are all familiar with Canvas by now, your Remote Learning will rely more heavily on technology than in quarters past. Ensure that you have access to a device and the necessary software required to learn. Also, check for adequate internet connectivity in all of your dedicated study locations, if possible. If you find that your internet access is spotty in certain locations, you might download the content from Canvas so you can work offline as well. Next, check technical requirements for browsers and plug-ins. This resource, [Strategies for Online Learning](#), might help inform your preparation.

Once you review your syllabi, log into all tools required by each course to ensure access. Be sure you know how to use online resources that your courses are likely to use, such as Zoom, Canvas, and the Google suite. It is likely that many of your courses will rely on Zoom, check out these tutorials ([How to Download and Install Zoom](#) and [How to Use Zoom at UC Davis](#)). If needed, ensure that you have access and accommodations through the [Student Disability Center](#). Lastly, you should consider adhering to general netiquette expectations.



For example, during video conferencing, be sure you are dressed appropriately and have your microphone muted so as not to interfere with teaching and learning.

3 COMMUNICATE



In Remote Learning, it will be critical that you intentionally connect with your Professors and TAs. Attend virtual office hours and ask questions early and often. If needed, communicate with the [Student Disability Center](#) and instructor regarding your accommodations. As well, if captions are not being provided in the video for any of your courses, ask via email for captions to be enabled.

Interacting with classmates will also be different this quarter. How will you engage in discussion forums? How will you actively participate via chat, break out rooms, google docs, etc.? Beyond what may be required in courses, you might also consider participating in [online study groups](#) or joining a study team. How will you work in groups or teams? Establish ways to leverage and connect to your network beyond classmates, such as with friends, roommates, or family.

4 ACTIVELY LEARN AND STUDY



Learning well remotely will require you to actively and intentionally engage in your learning. This means that you do more than just passively watch videos or lecture capture or just highlight while reading. Instead, mentally engage in your notetaking. Research shows that learning is a science. For some evidence-based strategies, read this handout [Learning Strategies 101](#) and watch this [video](#).

After reading and watching about these strategies, reflect on how you might apply them to each of your classes. For more information on each of the learning strategies discussed, watch these brief videos:

- [Study Strategies: Spaced Practice](#)
- [Study Strategies: Retrieval Practice](#)
- [Study Strategies: Elaboration](#)
- [Study Strategies: Interleaving](#)
- [Study Strategies: Concrete Examples](#)
- [Study Strategies: Dual Coding](#)

For more ideas on other aspects of learning, see these resources:

- [Planning a Project](#)
- [Reading Scientific Articles](#)
- [Understanding Assignments](#)
- [Outlining](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Learn How to Become - Website

This [website](#) can help students avoid common pitfalls, improve academic performance, manage stress and time effectively, and find relevant resources.

Success Coaching

Success Coaching and Learning Strategies will offer its services online during Spring Quarter. [Success Workshops](#) will be live webinars and appointments will be held over the phone or via Zoom. Schedule an appointment through the [Advising Appointment System](#) or by email (successcoaching@ucdavis.edu).

Academic Assistance and Tutoring Center

[Drop-in Tutoring](#) will move online for Spring Quarter 2020. AATC provides academic support to undergraduate students enrolled in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, and Writing Across the Disciplines. Our professional instructional staff offer classes, workshops and office hours.