

Welcome!

This is the first in a series of videos created by the Student Success Centre to help students at the University of Calgary with their online courses.

My name is Jared Secord, and I will be leading you through this video, which offers some suggestions about how to get started with online learning.

From our research, we know that there are two key factors for successful online learning. These are basically the same as the key factors for successful face-to-face learning. We know that students who tend to do well in face-to-face classes attend them regularly and have good habits of keeping up with their work. We also know that students who tend to do well really engage with their course material, and keep in contact with their instructor, teaching assistant, and other students in the class.

This boils down to key factors: a consistent schedule and engagement with others.

The same two factors are key for online learning.

But there is a big difference between online and face-to-face classes. Online classes require students to think more about self-directed learning.

Self-directed learning requires you to take initiative for your own learning process. This includes organizing your time to study, asking questions to your professor, and reaching out for help when you need it.

Some basic questions can help you come up with a plan for self-directed learning:

How will you organize your time? Will you use daily to-do lists? Will you have a weekly schedule, or a monthly list of all of the assessments in your classes?

What are the main assessments in your class?

When are the assessments due and how much are they worth? All of this information should be available to you on your course outline, or on the D2L site.



videos by Heather Thompson about time management and self care, two more important components of self-directed learning.

If you want additional help or support, you can also visit the Student Success Centre website to book a one-on-one appointment for Academic Support.