

15 TIPS TO SUCCEED IN YOUR 3-WEEK ONLINE WINTER SESSION COURSE

Winter session courses are intended for you to catch up, stay on track, or get ahead in your progress toward degree completion. These 3-week courses are intensive and require that you plan ahead for success. The tips below will help you be successful in your winter session course:

01

Know your priorities.

If you don't have time to take an online course during the winter session, or if a conflict arrives, drop the course as soon as possible. Let your friends and family know you'll be taking a course during the winter break to help with scheduling conflicts and distractions.

06

Figure out study habits that work for you.

Have a consistent and quiet workplace where you can study and work on assignments. Get an early start on course assignments. Don't procrastinate. Work ahead on your course assignments when you can.

11

Log into your course and check your email every day.

Check for course announcements daily. If you are expected to participate in discussion boards, check to see who has replied to your posts. Be sure to check your email often. Blackboard uses your @email.sc.edu by default.

02

Plan to spend sufficient time on your course.

You will be earning 3 credit hours in a 3-week time frame. Be prepared to spend at least 35 hours per week working on your course.

07

Create a calendar for due dates.

Create a schedule with due dates and plan how you will manage your time. Use a calendar to stay on top of your coursework. Keep in mind that you may have assignments due on the first day of class.

12

Be polite and respectful.

You are expected to treat your instructor and peers with respect and communicate with your instructor and peers in a professional manner.

03

Purchase/Rent your textbook(s) before the first day of class.

If you don't have your textbook and course materials before the first day of class, you will fall behind -- you will need to hit the ground running!

08

Familiarize yourself with the Blackboard Learning Management System before winter break.

If you have trouble accessing the course in Blackboard, or if you have trouble finding course materials, contact your instructor as soon as you can -- before USC closes for winter break.

13

Ask questions.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. If you don't understand course content or if you have issues in your course, ask your instructor for assistance as soon as you need help.

04

Read the syllabus carefully prior to the start of the course.

You are responsible for knowing the requirements for your course, as well as the expectations, assignments and due dates for all assignments.

09

Reliable computer + internet.

Create a technology back-up plan in case your computer or internet stops working. Thomas Cooper Library will be open most days during your course, and if you are not located in Columbia, public libraries typically have computer and internet access for use.

14

Connect with your instructor and other students early.

Ask instructors questions about the syllabus or course assignments prior to the due date of the assignment. Get to know your classmates at the beginning of the course. Interacting with your peers helps you to have an engaging experience in your course.

05

Stay organized -- make a plan.

Set aside a block of time each day to work on your course. Keep a copy of your assignments in case they do not submit correctly. Take notes while reading or watching videos and refer to your notes when studying.

10

Confirm technical requirements and skills.

Familiarize yourself with the technical requirements and skills needed to be successful in your course before the course starts. You want to focus your attention on your course materials and not technology issues during your course.

15

Be honest.

Academic integrity is very important to the Carolina Community. You may feel overwhelmed by the amount of work you need to complete in your 3-week course. We expect you to approach your work with honesty, integrity and to follow the values of the Carolinian Creed.



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