

Tips for Online Learning

There are two types of online learning: **Synchronous** or 'live' and **Asynchronous** learning, and both have their advantages and disadvantages.

Synchronous e.g., Zoom, Phone, Live Chat, vs. Collaborate

Asynchronous e.g., Discussion posts, pre-recorded lectures

Synchronous learning most closely resembles the traditional classroom environment. It requires all students to be logged in and present at the same time with a strong internet connection. ¹

Asynchronous learning takes place at a student guided pace with flexibility in scheduling. Feedback from the professor can be delayed and some students may have difficulty focusing on the material independently. ¹

Tips for Synchronous Learning:

- **Have a good internet connection:** Use an ethernet cable to plug your laptop directly into the internet rather than relying on Wifi.
- **Silence your notifications:** Turn off email and social media notification on the device used. Keep phone on silent and facedown to avoid any distraction.
- **Treat virtual classrooms like traditional classrooms:** Remain engaged throughout the lecture, ask questions, and maintain focus as though you were in a typical classroom setting.
- **Power:** Ensure your device is full charged before the beginning of class. Turn all the way off your device once a day as it will resolve most 'glitches' with synchronous class software.

Tips for Asynchronous Learning:²

- **Make a schedule:** Block out consistent, multi-hour time slots daily for coursework and stick to this schedule.
- **Communicate with the professor:** Send e-mails asking questions or set up a virtual meeting or phone call to discuss material if needed. Professors are still here to help you!
- **Discuss material:** Engage with classmates in online postings and take full advantage of independent discussions.
- **Begin work early:** Plan for unforeseen issues with technology or conflicting commitments in your schedule.
- **Be prepared:** Review expectations for each course ahead of time, as they may vary greatly.

References:

1. Tomar, D. A. (2018, January 31). Synchronous Learning vs. Asynchronous Learning in Online Education. Retrieved from <https://thebestschools.org/magazine/synchronous-vs-asynchronous-education/>
2. Bachner, J. (2020). Five Essential Online Learning Strategies. Retrieved from <https://advanced.jhu.edu/5-essential-online-learning-strategies/>