


Ten Ways to Increase Student Success in Your Online Course



1. **Communicate Early:** Contact your students the day classes start, even if it is just to let them know that your course has been published.
2. **Know Your Students:** Understand any technology or accessibility limitations your students may have.
3. **Provide Direction:** Make it obvious to students where and how to begin your course. Throughout the semester, make course content, assessments, and resources easy to navigate.
4. **Respond in a Timely Manner:** Tell your students in the syllabus what your response time will be for grading assessments and for answering questions (within 24 hours or at most 48 hours is a good rule of thumb) and abide by that time.
5. **Focus on Active Learning:** Students should be able to interact with the course content, the instructor, and other students.
6. **Provide Clear Expectations:** Provide rubrics for assessments so students know what is expected to receive full credit.
7. **Guide Students:** Provide a short outline for the week so that students are clear on what is expected and due each week.
8. **Create an Online Community:** Introduce yourself through a personal bio and/or introductory video so that students feel connected to a "real" person. Allow opportunities for students to get to know one another as well.
9. **Develop Effective Content:** Use a variety of media effectively for a rigorous, well-designed course.
10. **Communicate Often:** This list starts and ends with communication because that is a major key to the online student's success.



For more information on online teaching and learning, contact the Center for Distance Education: 662-325-3473, help@online.msstate.edu