



Online Education Myths for Students

Rigorous and Engaging Classes

1. Myth: Taking online courses is “settling” for a lesser-quality education
2. Myth: My online coursework will not be respected by others
3. Myth: I don’t have to attend classes so not much is expected of me

(1) Online courses are designed to offer students flexibility for when and where they work, however they are not easier. Our online classes utilize the Flipped Classroom method, a learning model in which typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. Rather than in person lectures, students receive instructional content outside of the classroom & do active learning assignments during class. Therefore, students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage.

(2) Technology has increasingly become more a part of business life, from online conferencing and training, to smartphones and online collaboration. Online programs must meet the same accreditation standards as their traditional on-campus counterparts. Employers know this and don’t distinguish based on degree delivery mode.

(3) The majority of online classes at the Fox School of Business meet virtually using the web conferencing software Zoom. This is no different than attending an in-person class, so your instructor will expect you to behave professionally and prepare your personal space for the class period to be appropriate and distraction free. You are required to join all virtual class meetings on your computer with a working microphone and webcam, and you will be expected to have your webcam on for the duration of the class period. The weekly Zoom sessions are a key part to developing a community in your classroom and ensuring that you have time to engage with each other and the course materials.



Time Management & Self-Motivation

4. Myth: I am feeling overwhelmed; online learning must not be for me
5. Myth: I am online all the time: this will be easy!
6. Myth: Since this is an online course, I can complete the coursework whenever I want

(4) Without a plan, online learning may feel overwhelming. Time Management & Self-Motivation are the keys to success. Students are expected to complete *10 hours* of work outside of class. Before the semester starts, review the syllabus to familiarize yourself with the assignments / expectations of the course and create a plan of action. If you anticipate any conflicts, then communicate early with your professor to see if you can work something out.

(5) Online courses are designed to offer students flexibility. However, it does not mean easier. The expectation is that students participate both by video and audio. All students are required to have a working camera and headset during class times. Make sure that you have all the equipment that you need to complete the course such as: headphones, webcam, and a strong internet connection. You can [check your internet connection](#). When class starts, make sure that your environment is free of noise / clutter. Now you are ready to learn!

(6) Just because the course is online doesn't mean that it is completely self-paced. Review the course syllabus to gain a better understanding of the format, requirements, and deadline expectations. Typically, you will be expected to come to class with a basic understanding from the readings, videos, etc. Students can self-pace coursework by finding time to dedicate to your studies whether it is with your morning coffee or at lunch. During class, your Professor may have you participate in a group discussion or activities to gain a deeper understanding. On a weekly basis, check the course announcements / due dates to stay up to date on what is happening in the course. Your professor has the right to change the Course Schedule at any time.



Group Work

7. Myth: With online education, I am “Going it Alone”

(7) An online course can make you feel like you are alone; however, you are not. The Flipped Classroom enables you to benefit from the expertise of your professor while also engaging with your classmates. Group work is incorporated within most courses. You may be required to work in groups during class, outside of class, or a combination of the two. Be sure to: Share group contact information early. Strategize to communicate effectively. Familiarize yourself with Zoom to host meetings.

Alternative Scheduling Formats

8. Myth: Online learning requires less time than traditional education

(8) OBBA courses are offered in three formats: full semester (15-week or 6-week in the Summer) and half semester (7-week). Half semester, surprisingly, is more demanding than the traditional full semester due to the compressed time frame. Be sure to review the type of course you sign up for, when it will take place, as well as registration deadlines for add/drop/withdraw and create a plan of action.

Not Tech Savvy? Not a Problem!

9. Myth: I don’t know my way around a computer: I can’t do this!

(9) There are many resources available to support you. The following is just a few of the resources that are available to you as an OBBA student: [Zoom Student Walkthroughs](#) and [Tutorials](#), Canvas Support, Online Tutoring and Proctoring, and External Applications. Online classes provide the resources you need for your course in an easily accessible format, along with places to submit your work and communicate with your instructor and classmates. Hopefully, you will have everything you need to succeed, but if you are struggling there is help available!