



What to Expect from Summer At SLU Academy Online Courses

- **Asynchronous Delivery:** Online courses are delivered asynchronously, or time-independent, so you may not have a regularly scheduled meeting time, or scheduled meeting times are infrequent.
- **Deadlines:** Although online courses tend to be asynchronous, you will still have timelines and deadlines for completing assignments.
- **Interaction:** Online courses are designed to facilitate student-student, student-instructor, and student-content interactions. Therefore, you can anticipate interactions with other students and with the instructor throughout the course.
- **Access Your Course Frequently:** You should expect to log-in to your Canvas course(s) several times a week. Some courses may require you to log in daily, others may require less frequent logging in. The course site in Canvas will contain your course assignments, lectures, readings, and where you will interact with your instructor and fellow classmates. Specific instructions about how frequently you should engage will be provided by your instructor.
- **Instructor Engagement:** In an asynchronous course, there may be periods of time when it feels like you are working alone. In fact, fellow students and instructors are doing the same things they do in a face-to-face course, but their work just is not as visible. Instructors are quite busy throughout your online course connecting to students to check progress, responding to student questions, providing feedback to students, and making sure the next learning activities are ready. You may reach out to your instructor when you have questions or need additional information. Instructors generally reply to student emails within 24-48 hours.

Preparing Your Technology and Workspace

- **Internet and Computer Access:** You will need daily access to a computer or laptop and connection to the internet with a minimum bandwidth of 80 mbps. Online courses **cannot** be completed using only a smartphone or tablet. The [Summer At SLU Academy website](#) has more detailed information on minimum technology requirements. If your courses include synchronous engagement, you also need a webcam and may benefit from a headset.
- **Get Oriented:** Your online courses in Canvas include information about technology support, student support resources, and the basics of using Canvas. Review these before starting the course.
- **Workspace:** Designate a distraction-free work space (as much as possible) to help you concentrate on the course and learning.



Preparing to Succeed

- **Get organized.** Read the syllabus at the start of the course and take note of all assignments and exams. Keep track of due dates.
- **Manage your time.** Establish a schedule, block off time each day or every few days, to complete course readings and assignments. Stay on track, if you fall behind in an online course, it is difficult to catch up.
- **Take a break.** Don't forget to include some downtime in your schedule to help you recharge. This will give you a boost to tackle your next task.
- **Be engaged.** Actively participate in your online course. This includes contributing to discussion boards, emailing your professor, and checking your SLU email daily.
- **Practice "Netiquette," be clear and professional in all interactions online.** Remember that you cannot rely on body language to convey information, since everyone is learning virtually. Type, revise, reread, then send. More information on netiquette is in each Canvas course site.
- **Maintain academic integrity.** The Academic Integrity Policy at Saint Louis University applies to students who take online courses. Please take time to review the policy in its entirety [here](#).
- **Pause your social media (unless it's for class).** Minimizing this distraction will allow you to optimize your study time and engagement with the course.

Additional Tools

You have access to free writing assistance online via [Smarthinking](#). Information for accessing this resource is in each Canvas course site.

Need assistance?

- If you have questions before or during your course, reach out to your instructor for help. They want you to succeed! Their contact information is located on the course syllabus and in Canvas.
- For more tips on how to manage your online class, you can consult the student information resources on the [Summer At SLU Academy website](#).