FAQ's for Online Learning and Expectations

What does asynchronous mean?
Asynchronous means that instructors and students may be logging into their courses at different times. In an asynchronous format, discussions, etc., are not “live” or in real time. Classes do not have a defined “meeting time”; students can access their courses anytime during the day and week that is convenient for their schedule.

Are my classes self-paced (start the course anytime, finish it when I can…)?
Online courses are NOT self-paced; they are quite structured and interactive. You will have assignments due each week and will be expected to participate with your classmates in the discussion boards.

What is a condensed format?
A condensed format means that the courses have 15 weeks’ worth of material pulled into a 7 or 10 week session. This requires a commitment of 12-15 hours per week to complete your weekly assignments.

How hard are the online courses? Are they easier than in-seat courses?
Online classes are in a condensed format which means they are demanding. The material is not harder, but you are getting 15 weeks’ worth of material in either 7 or 10 weeks, so it is a fast-paced learning environment. The courses are more convenient, not easier.

How often do I have to log on/attend class?
DU strongly recommends that you login and participate in your course at least 4-5 times per week. This will vary slightly by instructor. Make sure you read your syllabus to get the correct information about his/her expectations for the class. A key component of attending class is actively participating in weekly discussion board(s). Active participation means contributing thoughts and comments that advance the discussion, not just "I agree." Specific requirements for participation will be laid out by your instructor.

What if I have a question or concern about the course?
Because of the fast-paced nature of the courses, it is imperative that you take the initiative to resolve questions and issues when they arise. First, contact your instructor with your question or concern. If this does not lead to resolution, you can submit an Instructor Concern form so DU can effectively work with you and the instructor towards resolution. You are responsible for your success in this course and in this environment. If there is something preventing you from being successful, we can work together to resolve it.

How is homework submitted in an online class?
All assignments are submitted through the online classroom. Review the course syllabus and weekly agendas for instructions on how and where to submit your assignment(s).

How do I communicate with my instructor and classmates?
Your instructor will communicate with you by posting classroom announcements, responding to your questions and concerns in the discussion boards, providing feedback on assignments, and sending email to your student email account. You will have the ability to communicate with your instructor and classmates through the classroom discussion boards as well as through email.

How does the online classroom work?
The online classroom has defined areas related to course information (syllabus, instructor contact information), weekly materials (lectures, assignments), classroom discussions, grade review, and private correspondence. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are completed and/or submitted within the online classroom.