

Frequently Asked Questions about EGCC's Online Classes

Are online classes easier than classes that meet on campus?

- No, online classes are no easier than face-to-face courses. The online class concepts and topics are identical to the concepts and topics in the face-to-face classes on campus. Online classes usually require more self-discipline, self-motivation, and additional time than face-to-face classes. Students have to read and work through the concepts by themselves on their own time, unlike having an instructor in the face-to-face classes.

Are all online classes self-paced?

- No, all online classes are not self-paced. You will need to complete readings, assignments, discussion boards, quizzes, and test by a given due date assigned by the instructor. You will not be able to wait until the end of the semester to complete all course work. Please refer to the course's syllabus for more information.

How to access my online class?

- Online class materials may be accessed through EGCC's Learning Management System (LMS) known as Blackboard, NOT through Self-Service. Blackboard will contain the course syllabus and materials students will need to complete assignments and tests, as well as allow interactions between the instructor and classmates. (www.egcc.edu → CURRENT STUDENTS → Online Classes)

What is my username and password for Blackboard?

- Your username and password for Blackboard will be the default username and password, which you will receive in the mail from EGCC's Tech Services. Below is an example of a default username and password.
 - Username: JDoe00
 - Password: JDoe#### (# → Last four digits of your Social Security number).
 - The first initial of your first and last name must be capitalized!

How are the online classes structured?

- Online classes are usually structured into weeks. Instructors will post course work into weekly folders. Usually students have to complete the specific readings, assignments, quizzes or test by the end of the week. There are a few classes that are structured by units or chapters. Please refer to the course syllabus for the utilized structure method.

When do the online class weeks begin and end?

- This depends on how the instructor has structured the class. For example, if the instructor structures the online class weekly the beginning date will be Sunday and end on Saturday or begin on Monday and end on Sunday. This is all dependent upon the instructor. For more information please refer to the individual course syllabus.

How often should I log into Blackboard?

- Make sure to log into your online course at least 4-5 days a week. Doing so will help you stay up to date with discussion boards, assignments, as well as announcements and messages from your instructor.

Do I have to be online at a specific time throughout the semester?

- No, you will be able to access Blackboard at any time. It is important to remember to consult the course syllabus for additional information regarding class participation.

Can I submit my assignments whenever I am ready?

- No, online classes will contain required due dates for readings, assignments, postings, and tests. Your instructor will provide you with this information within the course syllabus.

What type of technology skills do I need for an online class?

- To have success in an online class students need to feel comfortable:
 - Using a computer.
 - Using and manipulating browsers such as, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome.
 - Accessing and using Blackboard (an orientation is provided to students to learn how to use Blackboard).
 - Creating Word Documents, Power Points, and etc.
 - Sending and receiving e-mails.
 - Sending and opening attachments (i.e. Word Files).

How much time weekly should I spend on each online class?

- The amount of time spent weekly on each class will vary. It is suggested students should spend anywhere from 5-15 hours per week on a class depending on the number of credits each class is worth.