

Becoming a Successful Distance Student
Advice from Current and Graduated DDP Students

- ✓ Have a calendar designated to keep track of important dates for assignments. When you're a full-time employee, spouse, parent, and grandparent, due dates can be easily missed. I also noted when I had completed lecture videos, assigned readings and course work. I could see at a glance if I was on track and could play for a few hours or if I had to catch up with studying.

- ✓ Carefully read and process comments written by professors on assignments returned before reacting negatively. After a day or so if you still disagree with the grade or comments bring it up constructively, even the most "hard nosed" professor is more likely to take your views into consideration if presented in a professional manner. Don't let yourself get in the way of personal growth.

- ✓ My best advice is to remember you are not alone. If you have a question, or are unsure about anything contact the appropriate person or department. The DDP office is great and will steer you to the right person or place. That is what they are there for. If you have questions about your class, or assignment, email or call the instructor. Remember, you are paying the instructors to teach you, that is their job. If they do not get back to you, call DDP, and they will help.

- ✓ Keep communicating. Contact staff or professors if you need to, and ask student leaders for information and resources. To get the most out of your DDP experience, get involved!! You are part of the larger WSU community. Your experience with DDP will be more enjoyable and you will get support from peers if you get involved in activities or committees.

- ✓ Create on line chats for flex courses, since there is hardly any class interaction in those classes like there is with the semester base classes. This would help students to learn better than just by themselves.

- ✓ Remember to make time for both work and play. While achieving scholastically is important so are the personal relationships in your life. These relationships are what sustain you when you have to write a ridiculously long term paper :)

- ✓ Don't expect the answers to come to you, do research and always ask questions if you don't understand something.

- ✓ Remember this is your education and you are the responsible one here, so checking into your classes every day or every other day is beneficial to you and it also shows the Professors how interested you are in their course.

- ✓ Read, read, read. Don't assume you know it all, always keep reading and take notes in what you read, you will reference your material. Follow the APA format, and always cite the information correctly or your doomed.
- ✓ Buy a calendar and train yourself to use it: print off all your deadlines and put them in there and then follow it every day.
- ✓ Put the WSU phone number in your cell phone.
- ✓ Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the whole DDP website and links - there is a lot of helpful information in there.
- ✓ Go into The Bridge and WEBCT and practice a little to feel more comfortable before your class starts.
- ✓ Get to know your classmates! They will be in many of your classes and you can end up with really neat friends from all over the world who can potentially become resources for jobs if you want to move around.
- ✓ Buy your books early! And shop around for prices. Always expect that the mail will take longer than you thought!
- ✓ Get all your financial aid paperwork squared away early, too. You don't want to be worrying about your grants while you are trying to get a paper written.
- ✓ Download and pour over your study plan to make sure all the classes you want to take are there. The advisors will work with you if you want to take other classes and let you know "What's what".
- ✓ **DON'T FALL BEHIND ON VIDEO LECTURES!** It is the easiest thing to do and the most painful. Twelve straight hours of anthropology - no matter how good the teacher is - is the worst~!
- ✓ I'll be starting my 3rd semester as a DDP Student in the fall and I feel it would be very beneficial (if feasible) to match up the new DDP students with Seniors or Graduates that are working toward the same degree/career field. Not only would they be able to help them by suggesting ways to make their study habits more successful, such as writing out the due dates of projects/papers week by week on a calendar in order to have a clear view of all that will pertain to each class throughout the semester, in order to not have problems with projects piling up toward the end and running out of time, but they would also be able to give good advice as to which classes are most reading/writing/research intensive so that a student would not overload their self with extremely heavy classes one semester and then go too "light" another. The mentor could have more of an idea of what instructors asked of the students in a particular class and could then convey that message better than what is presented in the syllabus. Or they might have suggestions as to how a particular project worked best for them, or how they stumbled by "going a wrong direction" and having to restart. Advice is always good to get "from one who's been there"!