What to expect in an online class

Online classes are a convenient and flexible way for many students to learn, but online classes may not be suited to individual learning styles, so it is important for you to understand how online classes work.

- Online classes are student-centered. The instructor facilitates your learning, but it is up to you to be motivated and conscientious so you will be successful in the class.
- Course work is conducted when and where it is convenient for you, but you still have deadlines for participation, assignments, and tests. Each course provides a syllabus and details on due dates.
- Course materials are presented online through web pages, video and audio presentations, articles, and other means. Materials are organized by week so you know what you should be working on during each week of the class.
- Interaction with your instructor and classmates is mostly accomplished through online discussion boards and emails. Instructors respond to questions within 24 hours.
- Assignments are explained in the course materials and are submitted online by the due dates. Tests are also completed online with students having a few days to complete them. Grades and feedback are provided within 7 days of due dates.
- If you have technical difficulties, support is available via phone, email, or chat 24x7 through a Student Help link in each course site.

Students who are successful in online classes are:
- Self-motivated
- Self-disciplined
- Able to manage time effectively
- Conscientious about meeting deadlines
- Comfortable using computers and the Internet
- Proactive about contacting their instructor when they have questions or concerns
- Able to communicate well in writing