

Class Sessions 8: Distance Learning

This lesson focusses on the factors that determine whether or a not a student will succeed in distance learning. Successful distance learners have access to technology, are opened-minded about sharing, are self-motivated, and are critical thinkers. Unfortunately, these is not enough for learners to succeed. If courses are not well designed, teachers are not familiar with the use of technology, expectations from learners are not clearly stated, or the technology does not work properly, learners will not feel motivated, and their success will not be as good as expected.

For instance, if a student is going through this situation, I would recommend approaching her or his counselor to express the concern about the course, to ask classmates about the way other online courses work to see if this is an isolated case or is the way courses run at the institution, and I would highly recommend completing the student satisfaction survey to express personal opinions about the instructor and the course. Students' feedbacks are always important and useful to improve programs, courses, teaching, and ways of supporting students.