

Orientation for Mentoring Certification Course
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6135-02

Characteristics of Successful Distance Learners

Distance learning provides a way for busy people to fit education into their lives. It provides flexibility, value and accessibility to allow anyone to access to knowledge. The distance learning environment is unique and it is important to understand what makes a successful distance learner.

Motivation

The first characteristic for success is motivation. Motivation comes from many sources. You may be motivated to take this course to enhance your career or gain a promotion. You may be motivated to help others to progress in their careers. Motivation is a very personal emotion and it will be important that you recognize and maintain your motivation throughout the program.

Time management

Time management is an important characteristic for success. This is an asynchronous course which means that you have the flexibility to manage your time. Although you are not required to log in at a certain time or day, it is important that you log in and complete the reading and assignments during each week. In order to be successful it is vital that each week's assignments are completed and that you manage your time wisely. By paying close attention to the course calendar and syllabus you can plan manage your time wisely.

Self-confidence

Self-confidence is another important trait. This course will be challenging but the self-confidence to be open to new information and the ability to be effective in the online learning environment will ensure that you succeed in this program. By taking the time to learn about the tools within Blackboard you will become more confident in the learning environment.

Active learner

Being an active learner is an important characteristic. Interacting with other students, the instructor and the assignments will ensure success. Taking the time to learn the material and ask questions will guide you to success. By applying the knowledge learned you will facilitate your learning and retain more knowledge.

Self-awareness

Self-awareness is also important for a distance learner. Knowing when to ask for help will be vital to your success. In the distance learning environment, the instructor will not know when you have a question unless you ask. Because of the separation of time and distance, it is

important to ask questions early in the week as it may take up to 24 hours to get an answer back from the instructor. Review the syllabus and each week's assignments early in order to ask questions early in the week.

Practice these habits and you will be a successful distance learner. Congratulations on starting your journey as a distance learner and good luck!

References

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