



Spring 2020 Learning Guide

Adapting tools and habits for learning during COVID-19

Spring Quarter 2020 Updates: As we get settled into new locations and routines, campus is preparing for remote teaching and learning in Spring Quarter.

Many resources are available to support you and more are being developed.

- Please find learning information at: **learningremotely.uchicago.edu**
- Please find general updates at **coronavirusupdates.uchicago.edu** and our main **uchicago.edu** website.
- Additional resources with links are provided at the end the guide.

Counselors, Deans of Students, and others are also available to support you through virtual connections. Please reach out to your Dean of Students if you need help connecting to other resources.

The top priority is that everyone stay well and take care of themselves, loved ones and communities.

In this guide we'll cover:

1. Preparing to start class
2. Reviewing your schedule
3. Learning through online discussion
4. Learning through recorded lectures
5. Dealing with disruption
6. Developing new skills

Questions about Technology for Learning?

See the "Getting Started" page on <http://learningremotely.uchicago.edu/>

Other information and links are available on that website's home page and in its FAQs.

Spring 2020 Learning Guide

1. Preparing to start class

Getting familiar with technology:

For remote learning, this means playing around with Canvas, Zoom, and Panopto. Learn features that you've never used and practice with friends. Familiarity will free your mind to take better notes, participate in discussion, and support your classmates.

New learning environment:

To the extent that you can, identify spaces that are:

- Able to support your technology.
- Consistent and reliable. This provides structure and familiarity that can add normalcy during this time of newness and transition.
- Quiet and well-lit: Lighting on your face allows other students and the instructor to see you and get to know you better.

Your Community:

Don't forget your friends. Commit yourselves to virtual social gatherings. Sharing strategies you've developed for learning may be helpful to others.

2. Reviewing your schedule

Changes to how work is scheduled:

You may find that your schedule is quite different than what you're used to. For example, if your classes involve a lot of asynchronous or independent work, you may have to impose some deadlines and structure on yourself. You may also have to enlist some of your friends and classmates in the formation of virtual study groups.

We'll be learning around the globe:

If a time zone difference makes it difficult for you to participate during scheduled class time, let your instructor know. Sessions can be recorded and other approaches developed to support asynchronous work.

Focus and work habits: Think carefully about the type of intellectual focus and work habits required of each course and adjust accordingly. Don't hesitate to ask instructors for advice on how to succeed in this unfamiliar learning environment.

**This content and more is available on the
"Learning Practices" page on
learningremotely.uchicago.edu**

Spring 2020 Learning Guide

3. Learning through online discussion

Storing notes and important notices: Your usual practices of organizing important information, including notes from interactive sessions, may not apply when learning remotely. Try to anticipate how you will manage information and ask for guidance from your instructors. Once classes have started, map out for yourself the sources of key information and a set of daily work habits that keep those things in order.

Extending the discussion: Living on campus, you have daily conversations with classmates, friends, and instructors, which provide opportunities to explore and critique what you are learning in class. Here are some suggestions for keeping those conversations going while learning remotely:

- After a Zoom session, talk yourself through what was discussed and the key points you gleaned from the discussion. Jot those thoughts down and file them.
- Ask a classmate or two to join you in that process on your own Zoom meetings.
- See if you can engage family members or friends in these conversations.

Zoom etiquette: Everyone is learning how to have online discussions, so it helps if everyone, not just the instructor, is striving to maximize participation. If you find you can't contribute when you need to, let the instructor know.

4. Learning through recorded lectures

Adjusting to a new format: You may find it difficult at first to learn from a taped lecture. Stick with it (it gets easier) and try these strategies:

- Listen to the lecture with the video off while taking notes.
- Read the slides with the audio off.
- View the full lecture one time through, taking notes. Then, put the audio on in the background while you do other tasks. Try visualizing the graphs, images, or slides as you listen.

**This content and more is available on the
“Learning Practices” page on
learningremotely.uchicago.edu**

Spring 2020 Learning Guide

5. Dealing with disruptions

It is likely there will be technological or logistical disruptions.

Service providers are working with unprecedented demand.

Consider the following:

- At the start of class, ask your instructor to explain the procedure if the technology fails on his/her end. What should students do until contact is reestablished?
- Ask what you should do if technology fails on your end? What is the best way to reestablish communication? What should you do until that occurs?

6. Developing new skills

During Spring 2020, you will experience many facets of remote learning. While some courses will require you to function more independently, others may require a high degree of coordination and communication with other students. Either way, as you become more skillful using the technologies of remote learning, be mindful of the fact that you also practicing new modes of critical thinking, analysis, invention, creativity, and expression.

Additional Resources

COVID-19 Campus Updates: <https://coronavirusupdates.uchicago.edu/>

Spring 2020 Student Resources: <https://spring2020.uchicago.edu/student>

Spring 2020 College Information: <https://college.uchicago.edu/spring2020>

Student Counseling: <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/>

Student Disability Services: <https://disabilities.uchicago.edu/>

Working Remotely (general): <https://workingremotely.uchicago.edu/>

Contact Us: learningremotely@uchicago.edu and through the Learning Remotely website