

Dear New Student,

You have made a good decision to sign on to this class. You can expect to come away with a solid understanding of the fundamentals of statistics which will definitely help you in your work and in your life.

My success in this class is due to the strategy employed by me of paying attention to topics called out in the chapters. I found out that a good understanding of these topics was crucial since these became the groundwork for later chapters. I initially tried to make sense of the formulas also but soon realized that that was not really necessary. So a bit of memorization in that area helped.

Due to the fact that I can get very busy with my work and family, I would try to do as much work as I possibly could whenever I found time. However, I found that getting too ahead of the class caused me to lose a few points in the exams as I would forget the materials I had studied so much in advance. Once I learnt to pace myself I started getting the grades I was expecting.

If I were to repeat this class I would like to have more time with the instructor. I had trouble setting up the virtual classroom on my computer and I never did anything about it. In retrospect, I should have set up the virtual classroom because I could have benefited from the additional explanations by the instructor.

The one study habit that worked very well for me was that as soon as I finished reading the chapter and completed the online and written homework, I would write out the notes from that chapter. This was not very elaborate, just some definitions and formulas that I thought I should know. This became a quick and easy reference as the topics started building up and saved me countless hours of time as I did not have to go back and search for the meaning of a term. The second thing was that I never walked away from a chapter when I was done with it. I would let it play in my mind so it became clearer and clearer. The third thing that helped me was that I was always seeking

connectivity from chapter to chapter i.e. the formulas etc. were changing but I was trying to understand what it was that was creating this change. Once this became clear I did not have to struggle as much keeping all the different formulas straight.

In my next online class I would not study too much ahead of schedule. Just as it is important never to fall behind it is equally important not to get too far ahead.

Sometimes, I would get impatient with a subject when I was running out of time and attempted to do the online homework and online quiz prematurely. This always resulted in my having to go back and revisit the chapter so whatever time I hoped to save with shortcuts was lost. Last, I would make room in my schedule for interactions with the instructor.

To stay organized, I read the course documents very closely and made a note of all the important dates. A big binder where I could organize all my work with partitions helped me find things efficiently. Once the course started, I followed the unit checklist very closely.

Wishing you the very best as you embark upon this course of study.