M3 What advice would you give students about to take their first HyFlex course

For students who are taking their first hyflex course, I'd say, well, what a what? An opportunity you have so many of us who are teaching hyflex re preparing to teach hyflex wish we had that opportunity when we were students and you have it and so i say so. I would say take advantage of it, but don't abuse it either. Yeah, if you're teaching or if you're taking a high flex course, you're gonna have opportunities to choose among different modes, and you probably have a pretty good sense of what kind of mode is the best fit for you. How do you like to to learn? Do you like learning with other people sitting around you? Well, then the classroom is probably the mode for you. Do you like to learn more independently going at your own pace and at your own time. Well, clearly then the synchronous online path might be good for you. Do you like to learn with other people but you can't be there in person? Well, perhaps the online synchronous path is is right for you. I will say that not all the time do you have an opportunity to choose the mode that you think is the best fit for you. Sometimes you're forced into a mode by your own circumstances or the circumstances of those around you that you know that's not a best fit for you. In that situation in particular, I would say pay attention to how you're learning. You reach out to your faculty, uh you’re the person who's teaching you, or a teaching assistant, or maybe your colleagues, your your peers in the class to get help when you think you need help to ask questions when you're not quite sure what's expected of you or or what you're being, you know what you're learning, not to let it get too late. You'll have a lot of opportunity, but with that opportunity become he actually becomes great responsibility. So if you're choosing a mode, then it's not a good fit for you and you have another mode available. That's probably something that you should be considering is whether or not a different mode would be a better choice for you, even if it's a little less convenient. You have to get up a little earlier. You have to drive to drive through that traffic or take an extra bus, whatever it happens to be. Sometimes it's worth it for your learning, and this is an opportunity you have that you're probably not gonna have again. Knowing that that’s forever when it's it's maybe it's new and and and. Also, that a student can share his. Share What he or she is worried about. Because it's it's new environments and ever and for the teachers new of often it’s, a new a new way of teaching and also for the student it will be a new experience. So talk about your expectations and also give feedback to the teacher. If you think that some things can can be differently. You wanna be sure and choose the delivery modality that will support your learning the best, not just for convenience. Test your equipment if you're participating via web conferencing, make sure you have a quiet spot to. Attend class in turn your camera on. If you're online, engage in the course through all the modalities available to you. If you don't want to turn your camera on for a variety of different reasons, then I would recommend that you participate asynchronously or in person. So my advice is to participate in the class, so turn on your video, talk to the instructor, they'll be happy to see you and you know, and I realize that sometimes that's not possible. And when it's not possible, then be active in the chat and so on. If you're attending the class asynchronously, it's not like you're not in the class. You can still send the instructor an email, say hi, and then find out. As a student, I wanna know when is everything gonna happen, download and read the syllabus. And I know that some people don’t do that, but it's really important so you know, not only when things are due, but how to do them, how to watch the videos when different elements in the course are supposed to happen and really be on top of it. But my personal philosophy is to get stuff done as quickly as possible. So after the class do the homework. It will save you a lot of anxiety than tj last second. Unfortunately, that process doesn't work for most people, so time management really is probably the most important thing. Find out how is a flex course different than the classes you normally take? Schedule out your assessments and then work with that in order to be successful, I would recommend. Um, looking at how the course is laid out. How it's divided up in hours. Exactly what the expectations are. Hopefully that is within the class itself and I don’t have to keep on referring back to a piece of paper or PDF or things like that. But. I would watch the welcome videos and then how to navigate this class. Videos that are in there, they're designed well. And then know themselves ask ask students to go where are my most more successful. Am I more successful when I'm face to face because it hold it holds me accountable. And know that my primary way, my preferred way is on ground. But if I have to be able to set up some some. Some ideas in my mind, some decision making matrixes to be able to like. When do I? When do I wanna be able to do this asynchronously? When do I want this flexibility so it's it's really from from student to student. So they have to assess themselves. Uhm, and not think of I'm just gonna go all asynchronous. When they know that they have to have this face-to-face component, I think that's I think that's the biggest part and then know how long that course is so I know when things are going to hit when. So when they're taking multiple classes at the same time. They don't need to like wait for the last second. They need to hit due dates. Make sure that they have their time management skills kind of laid out uh and be able to do those things at the right time because the next bus is gonna is gonna roll out around. I would tell students to obviously pick the stream or pick the method that uh they feel most comfortable with. Right. So we want the students. Based on the Hyflex learning environment, we're providing that flexibility to the students to engage in the content in the way that they deem best for them. And so obviously, to ensure that they picked the modality that they feel the most comfortable with us, as they're learning. But then again the other part for the students is really to just. Think flexibly. Be sure that they engage in the content, whether they're synchronous in class, synchronous online, or asynchronous. Um but the biggest piece is to really ensure that they're comfortable reaching out if they have questions or if they have any issues. You know, as an online learner, it may be tricky where if you're not. in the classroom directly. And you don't have direct access to the instructor, just ensuring that you have that same comfort level to reach out if you have any questions, whether it's course content you're looking for any assistance in the course. Any assistance in the program to connect with those resources that can provide that assistance. So just making sure that you as well are a flexible learner, that you're engaged in the content from the beginning to the end, that you continue to work through the content. So you know not to leave anything on the side but then to also reach out if you have any questions or any need for assistance. Throughout the learning. To really have an honest understanding of how they learn best. And if they need structure, and if they're very used to having structure. To see if they could incorporate some structure into their schedule, especially if they're choosing to do it asynchronously. This is something that. Some students struggle with when they move into. Programs that have a lot more freedom and flexibility and without. Having some of that self discipline, it can be very difficult. One of the things I would also recommend that faculty do is to incorporate some education about this at the beginning of the semester so that students are aware of what can happen and can hopefully do some problem solving and proactive planning to reduce the chances of that happening.