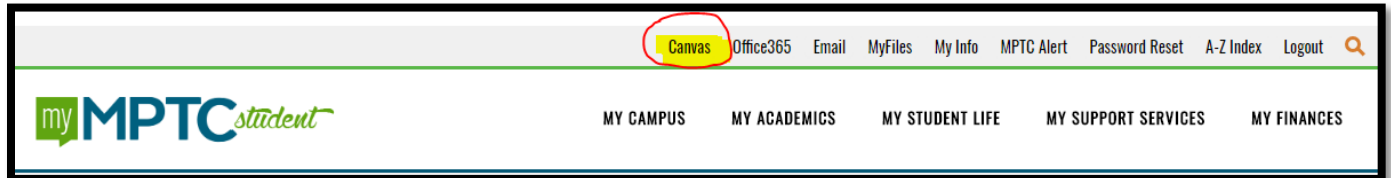# What should I know before starting an online or blended class?

Online, blended, and several face-to-face courses are available in Canvas, our online learning environment. Here you will be able to access course content, lesson requirements, complete assignments and activities, and interact with your instructor and classmates.

*Canvas can be* accessed through *my*MPTCstudent.



*Important things to know <u>before</u> taking an online class:*

*Technical Requirements*

- <u>A computer</u>. Although Canvas can be accessed on mobile devices, it is difficult to write papers, read all the materials, and submit homework on a smartphone.

- <u>Reliable high speed internet access</u>. Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser. The latest versions of Firefox, Chrome, and Safari are better. <u>Internet Explorer/Edge DOES NOT work well with Canvas!</u>

*Course Expectations*
- Online courses are not self-paced; expect due dates for assignments, participation in online discussions and more.
- Canvas class access typically starts the first day of the class.
- Check your student email in advance. Your instructor would notify you if you need to log in early. It is up to the instructor to grant early access.
- Plan to spend as much time working on assignments as you would with a traditional class.  Additionally, your instructor may schedule live web conferences or you may be expected to participate regularly in group discussions.

- Plan to log in to a class on Canvas multiple times per week to contribute to class discussions, work on and turn in assignments, or contact your professor.
- Textbook or course materials requirements may vary depending on the course.

***Resources***

If you're new to online classes, we offer in-person Canvas training. It's very helpful and only takes an hour. These are offered before each semester. Ask in the Main Office if you'd like to sign up.

These sessions will also be available live through our web conferencing tool, Zoom. If you can't attend an in-person session or live webinar, enroll in our self-paced Growing with Canvas tutorial or refer the Canvas Guides for additional resources documentation.

You can find these resources under the *Help and Resources* Menu in Canvas. The student tour is found here under MPTC Student Resources.



If you need technical support, please contact the Help Desk. If you have questions about your course, please contact your instructor individually.