

## Online Study Skills Course FAQs

### Study Skills Content, Support, and Materials

- **What material is included in the courses?**

Both the middle and high school courses cover similar content, though the way in which this material is presented- and the types of activities included- will differ depending on age (see below). In general, topics included in the core curriculum are as follows:

- Organization of notebooks and papers (e.g., notes, tests, etc.)
- Time management (e.g., breaking down assignments into manageable parts, scheduling time to study for tests, etc.)
- Project planning
- How to use planners to manage assignments and deadlines
- Creating an appropriate study space
- Creating a homework routine
- Managing and completing homework assignments
- Reading comprehension strategies (including: how to identify key information from text)
- Note-taking
- Avoiding procrastination
- Test-taking strategies (e.g., how to prepare for tests, how to take tests)
- Relaxation techniques
- Self-assessment of organizational strengths and weaknesses (high school only)
- Classroom etiquette
- Understanding how memory works and how to maximize memory for learning (high school only)

In addition to this core curriculum, we have also included bonus material that covers topics particularly relevant to the current online learning environment that many students are facing. These include:

- Strategies for managing and organizing multiple online resources (e.g., websites, passwords, etc.)
- Creating learning schedules
- Improving motivation
- Improving goal-setting, self-monitoring, and self-regulation skills

Finally, the online course will also include information for parents on how to best support student learning and continue to promote strong study and organizational habits throughout the school year.

- **How is the online course similar/different from the annual in-person Study Skills camps?**

The core curriculum for the online course is exactly the same as that used in our in-person camps, though many of the classroom or group activities that students typically

participate in when done in person have obviously been amended to fit an online learning model. So, while some of the activities may have changed slightly, the core curriculum content is the exact same. By contrast, the bonus material offered online has been developed this year and has never been included in the in-person camps before.

- **What is the format of the course?**

The program is self-paced, meaning that each student/family can decide what days of the week/times of the day they would like to spend on course material. All lessons are pre-recorded; there are no live activities or meetings, and no homework assignments that must be turned in at specific times. That being said, we strongly recommend that students spread the material out over a *minimum* of five days.

We have designed the course with the idea that students will complete the core curriculum during the week (Monday-Friday) for about 1.5- 2 hours a day. Bonus material can be completed on a 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> day immediately following the core curriculum, or with a few days in between. However, while this schedule is recommended, it is not required. However you decide to schedule your time is up to you; however, we would strongly advise that your child *not* condense the core material and complete it in less time, as doing so usually means that they spend less time on each learning activity in an effort to get through it all faster.

Once you are registered, you will have access to the course for two full weeks (14 calendar days). After this time, you will lose access to the videos and lessons but will be allowed to keep all course handouts for future use.

- **Do I need to participate in the course with my child, or can s/he complete it independently?**

We strongly recommend that a parent or caregiver complete the course with each student, regardless of the age or grade of your child. Although we are passionate about study skills, most students are not! As a result, there is a tendency for students to try to rush through material, skip activities, or engage half-heartedly in discussions unless a parent is participating with them. In addition, most (but definitely not all!) students taking this course are not yet independent learners- that's often why parents want them to do this in the first place! As a result, they may not be able to complete this course independently and effectively without some help from a parent.

- **Can my child complete this course together with a friend?**

Sure- the more the merrier! However, please note that only *registered* participants are allowed to take part in the course; thus, all students learning the material together must each be individually registered first (even if they are sharing the same screen).

- **Can I download or keep the course materials for later reference?**

The pre-recorded lessons and videos will not be available for download, and access to this course content will be revoked after two weeks. However, all course handouts (many of which summarize key course concepts) can and should be downloaded and kept for later use.

- **Do I need to purchase any additional supplies for the course?**

Yes, there are some additional supplies that students will need in order to complete all course activities. These include the following:

- 3 ring binder (1 inch recommended but not required)
- 1 pocket protector
- 1 packet of pocket dividers for 3 ring binders with tabs
- Pencil case with rings
- Lined paper
- Labels
- A few pens and pencils
- Highlighter
- 3 x 5 index card (middle school only)
- Regular square post-it notes (middle school only)

- **Can I obtain copies of materials from the Study Skills course?**

All handouts are available for download after you have registered for the course. You are free to download those and save them to your own computer. We encourage you and your student to print off as many copies as you need throughout the school year.

- **I have a child who is not in middle school or early high school but who would benefit greatly from this material. Can I enroll him/her in the course?**

Yes, we are not imposing an age limit for the online study skills course in the same way that we do for the in-person camps. That being said, please note that the course material *is* designed with these specific age groups in mind; thus, a younger child might find the material a little challenging (or not relevant to the requirements of his/her school or grade), and an older student might find the material too easy or elementary. However, if you feel this material is relevant for your child, you are welcome to sign him/her up!

- **My child has attended an in-person Study Skills camp before. Can s/he be enrolled in the online course?**

Yes, study skills camp graduates are welcome to take the online course. However, please be aware that- aside from the bonus material- all of the material they will encounter in the online course is the same as what they have seen before, so it will be repetitive. Some children benefit from this repetition, but others are bored by it.

- **What are the differences between the middle school and the high school curricula? Should my high school student be enrolled in Study Skills if s/he has already completed a middle school class?**

As you can see from the list of topics outlined above, much of the course content is the same in both the middle and high school courses. For example, both groups of students will learn the same notebook organizational system (with very slight modifications for the high school students), and all will learn reading comprehension and note-taking strategies. However, we have changed the activities for many of these topics to better suit each age group's developmental and educational needs. In the high school course, students spend more time on reading comprehension and note-taking because we know

that they are asked to do more of each at school. We also include more in-depth activities for this same reason. The same general principle applies to all topics within each course.

Students who once attended a camp as a middle-school student are welcome to now enroll in the high school class. However, we ask that you be aware of the similarities in the material in advance so you can prepare your child for some repetition.

- **I know my neighbor’s child would really benefit from this course. Can I share my materials with him?**

Unfortunately, no. All course materials are the intellectual property of NCSU and should be made available to **registered participants only**. Sharing of any materials associated with the Online Study Skills Course is a direct violation of university copyright and intellectual property guidelines.

### **Scheduling and Attendance**

- **When can I register for the online Study Skills course?**

Registration is open year-round! When you register, you will let us know when you wish to gain access to the materials; you will then have access for two weeks. For information on how to register, please see the “Registration, Payment, and Refund Policy” section below.

- **Once registered, how long do I have access to course materials?**

Videos and lectures will be available for two weeks (14 calendar days). Course handouts are yours to download and keep.

- **Does my child need to be available at a particular time for lessons?**

No! All lessons are pre-recorded and done at your own convenience and according to your own timeline. Please see the “Study Skills Content, Support, and Materials” section above for more information.

- **Will you be monitoring my child’s attendance or participation?**

No. It is up to you and your child to decide how much time and effort you want to spend with this material. We do not take attendance or monitor participation in any way.

- **I requested to start the online course on a specific date, but I need to change that. Can I reschedule the start of this course?**

As long as we have not already granted you access to the course, we are happy to change your start date. Please email [studyskills@ncsu.edu](mailto:studyskills@ncsu.edu) with your request.

## Registration, Payment, and Refund Policy

- **How do I register my child for the online Study Skills camp?**

All information on registering for the online course is available on our website. Please visit the main Study Skills page ([go.ncsu.edu/studyskillscamp](http://go.ncsu.edu/studyskillscamp)) and click on the relevant links to online course. You will then see a list of required documents, as well as a link to the online registration form. You can also submit your payment online at [go.ncsu.edu/paymyclinicbill](http://go.ncsu.edu/paymyclinicbill).

Once your registration form and payment is received, you will be sent a confirmation email of enrollment and instructions on how to access and begin the course.

- **How much is the course?**

The total cost for each course is \$150 per student. For families enrolling more than one child/sibling in *either* of the courses, the cost for the first student is \$150 and the cost for each subsequent student s \$75 (50% discount). Please note that this discount *only* applies to siblings.

- **What payment methods are accepted by NCSU?**

Because our physical offices at NCSU are still closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, we are currently only able to accept electronic payments submitted through our online portal ([go.ncsu.edu/paymyclinicbill](http://go.ncsu.edu/paymyclinicbill)). We cannot accept cash or checks at this time.

- **When is my payment due?**

Your payment should be paid at the time of registration. We will not be able to grant access to this course until payment has been received in full.

- **I have sent in my registration forms but have not heard anything. What should I do?**

We confirm receipt of registration materials with an email from our clinic. It is possible that emails from the clinic have gone into your SPAM folder, so please check there. Otherwise, contact our office by phone (919-515-1713) or email ([studyskills@ncsu.edu](mailto:studyskills@ncsu.edu)) to inquire about the status of your registration.

- **What happens if I change my mind and want to cancel my registration after it has been submitted? Can my money be refunded?**

We are happy to refund all of your payment *as long as* we have not already granted you access to the course. Once course access has been granted, the fee is nonrefundable.

## Other Questions

- **If I have any concerns or issues, what is the best contact information for me to use?**

Because we are still working remotely, the best option for contacting us is to email us at the main study skills email ([studyskills@ncsu.edu](mailto:studyskills@ncsu.edu)). You may also contact the Clinic Director, Dr. Natalie Murr directly ([nsmurr@ncsu.edu](mailto:nsmurr@ncsu.edu)). We are still checking voicemail

so please also feel free to call the Clinic office (919-515-1713) and leave us a message. We will do our best to return your call within 48 hours (and hopefully sooner).