**Tips for Studying from Home**

Idaho State University has transitioned from in-person classes to online classes due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Studying from home can be very challenging. You may find yourself easily distracted by your pet, family members, the fridge, the TV, roommates, and your bed. You may also find yourself not as motivated or productive. Some of you may also struggle with anxiety related to the COVID-19 while facing academic stress. Studying from home will require stronger willpower than usual to stay focused. Below are some tips for studying from home.

***Establish a Routine***

Treat your study from home as if you are going to the library/classes. Set a time to wake up, freshen up, eat breakfast, and get dressed. Having an established routine can provide structure for your life and signal your brain “it is time to get work done.”

***Have a Dedicated Study Area***

Creating a physical boundary between your study area and your relaxation area could be very helpful to stay focused when studying from home. This can also help you to contain your academic stress to the study space.

***Take Notes for Online Classes***

It is important to put your phone away, turn off notifications from messages and social media on your computer, and close irrelevant webpages to minimize distraction. Taking notes during the online classes can also keep your hands busy and help to turn your attention to the class content.

***Keep a Routine for Physical Activity***

Set break times for your study session (e.g. every 45 minutes) to get up, move around, and activate different parts of your brain. You can stretch, do a set of jumping jacks, walk around the room, and take a look at the view outside the window.

***Don’t Forget Your Social Time***

Building in some social time during your day can motivate you to stay focused when studying. You can set a time when you are less productive to reach out to friends and family. You can connect with them either through phone calls or video chatting.

***Create a Study Plan and Share It with Others***

Write down what you need to accomplish in the next 3 days, and break them down into small tasks to complete in each day. Breaking down a big task into smaller chunks can make things less overwhelming and help you to get more motivated in getting them done! You can also share your study plan with your friends (study buddies!) to keep yourself accountable.

***Eat Well, Sleep Well***

Select healthy snacks when you study, and prepare lunches that will not put you to sleep afterwards. Having at least 7-8 hours of sleep at night is the best way to help you wake up feeling refreshed and ready to start your study during the day.

***Avoid Multitasking***

You can designate your less productive time of the day to attend to chores. Set your schedule in a way that you can focus on one thing at a time (i.e. studying, chores, relaxing, exercising) and know that you will have designated time later for other things on your to-do list.