Virtual Backpack: The Start Guide for Online Learning

SMC Online has developed a "start guide" for students who are taking online courses at SMC for the first time. The primary purpose of this experience is to improve student success in online classes. This activity will help prepare you for the rigors of online coursework.

Who is it for?
The online start guide is designed for students who are new to online learning at SMC.

How do I get started?
You can complete the online start guide anytime, anywhere you have an internet connection. You don't have to come to campus or make an appointment. To access the start guide:

1. Log in to your Brightspace account
2. Select the My Courses widget on the homepage
3. Under the Student Resources tab, press the Start Guide for Online Learning course

This will take you to the first page of the online start guide. If you have any problems accessing the start guide, or it's not there, please contact online@smcsc.edu.

How does it work?
- The "course" is self-paced and can be completed any time after admission
- Students will be notified of the requirement prior to registration and provided with instructions for accessing and completing the guide
- The modules should take about one hour to complete
- After completing the training, you will earn an online learning badge and your enrollment advisor will be notified

What will I learn?
The start guide experience is intended to help you understand if you are prepared to take your first online class, if you have the necessary skills and resources to succeed, and offer tips to help you plan for success. The start guide's modules cover:

- study skills
- technology skills
- academic integrity
- student support services
- what to expect

Am I done?
If you're not sure if you successfully completed the online start guide, you can check your Brightspace account. In the Start Guide course, click on Awards from the navbar. If you completed the course, you will see the Online Learning badge. If you need help, email online@smcsc.edu.