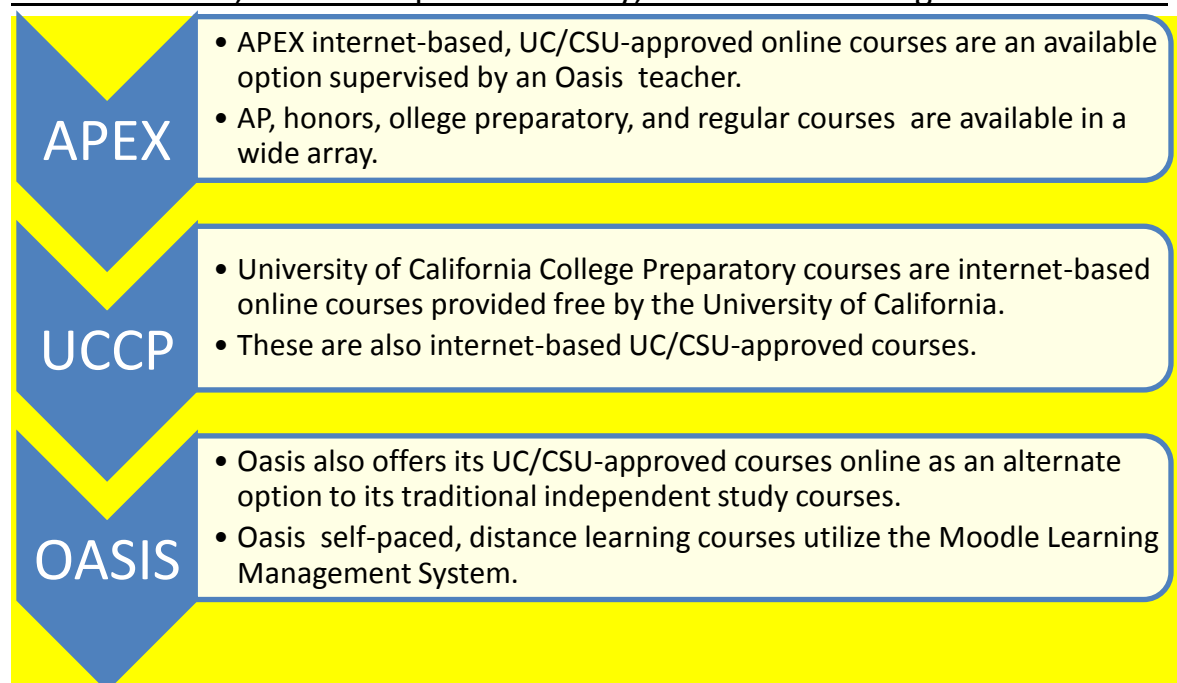


## A Capsule Summary of Online Learning Options through Oasis High School

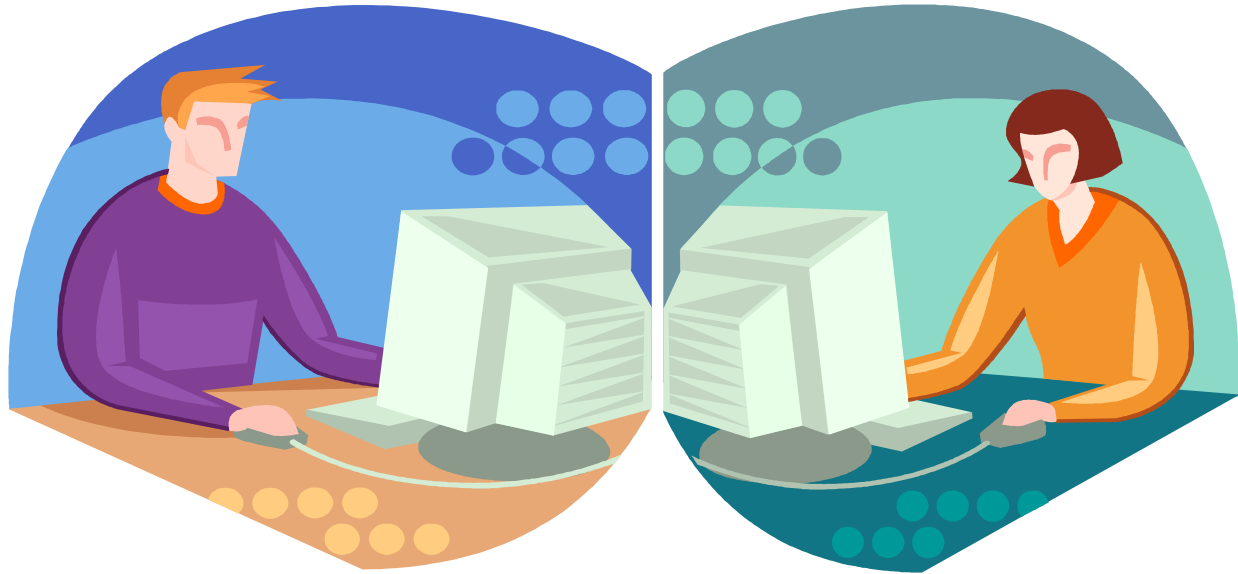


Oasis High School offers the only **all-online option** for students in the Fallbrook Union High School District. It also offers a **blended option of independent study with online courses**.

Online courses, all via independent study, are offered through three sources:



**Each of the above self-paced sources includes direct teacher supervision and the availability of additional tutoring support.**



These following “Online Learning Tips” for high school students come from the opinion letter of the same title by Rebecca Wardlow, provost for Ashford University, to the San Diego Union Tribune on Thursday, October 6, 2011.

Online high school courses are used to:

- improve student access to advanced placement classes
- stimulate more student-teacher interaction
- create new efficiencies in an era of budget constraints

#### NATIONWIDE

- In 2009, the percentage of high school students taking online courses was 18%
- In 2010, the percentage of high school students taking online courses nearly doubled to 30%
- In 2011, more than 22% of Oasis High School students are taking an online course.

Teens need a frame of reference and discipline to succeed in what may falsely seem to be an unstructured learning environment. Online learning can be more rigorous than learning in the traditional classroom, with no credit for attendance, only for work submitted. (This means there is no hiding in the back of the classroom but still receiving credit; **EVERYONE ONLINE IS FRONT AND CENTER!**)

Based on her data analysis of thousands of online students, Dr. Wardlow found certain consistencies to the most successful approaches. She suggests that these tips for online learning will result in success in high school and set the stage for further growth in college:

1. **Read everything thoroughly.** Become oriented into the online classroom. Essential materials can be a click or two away and not easily discovered. Understand the cascading assignment calendar, find the due dates for all assignments and work backward to prepare to fulfill the requirement. Find the tech support number right away so it's handy for the time that you can't login, which inevitably happens online. (Also, familiarize yourself immediately with the course's Learning Management System (LMS) be it Moodle, Haiku, or any other.)
2. **Visit the (Oasis) classroom regularly, even for just five to ten minutes.** Look for new information, advice, and available resources, such as the tutor or counselor's schedule, career center schedule of college visits and tests, and other links or services that can help the student to do better in class.
3. **Figure out how to submit your work.** This is more than just finding the classroom; know where the key elements are online and how to submit assignments.
4. **Embrace time management.** This is a tricky one. There is a tendency to procrastinate if something isn't due until tomorrow, or late this semester. Be disciplined. Set specific dates and blocks of time to work, just as you would have done with a live classroom schedule. Just because the classes are online doesn't mean you don't have to be there.
5. **Establish a working relationship with the teacher.** Ask questions well in advance of the need to know. Online education can be an advantage here. When

stuck, get fast responses via email. Take the time to read input from the teachers. Remember, the teacher can see everything you do in the online classroom - when you login, when you do your work, and the amount of time spent online. There is no credit for simply looking at the screen or browsing other sites. Actively participate and complete every assignment.

6. **Be diligent in your editing and proofreading; your work should be perfect, or better.** Students who are active in social media can get lazy in their writing and may have sloppy grammar. When writing, compose offline first, use spell check, and then cut and paste to submit the assignment. Avoid social media abbreviations and slang that are inappropriate in any learning environment, and most certainly in the academic arena.

7. **For parents, be involved online as you would with traditional classes.** Help your budding scholars set aside time for studying online. Encourage them to establish their own calendars and plans of action. Communicate with the teachers just as you would in a traditional classroom.

8. **As one technical detail, make sure the AP credit is approved for universities and colleges.** Check on how many students are in the online classroom. Class size matters, even when online. Ensure there are teachers and facilitators in the online classroom. (Oasis does not offer the online "PDF learning" (or static information) which places the onus on the student without support or guidance.)



In conclusion, a good, online learning experience in high school can better prepare students for advancing to any college or university, whether online or traditional. Online classes are the present and future of education. It is the intent of Oasis High School and the Fallbrook Union High School District to support students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum options which emphasize the mastery and application of 21<sup>st</sup> Century High Order Thinking Skills.



21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Order Thinking Skills Emphasizing Action by Doing