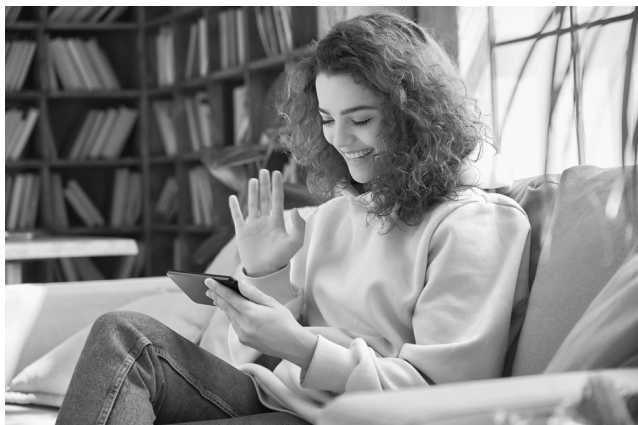


# How to make friends online



Knowing how to make friends online can greatly and positively impact your experience while attending an online college, and in general in your life, so here are some helpful tips.

### 23-1

- 1 The first tip is that you should start to be active in the group when you join a social media group. Like and comment on other people's posts and then consider posting and sharing yourself. People will start to recognize your name as you recognize theirs. Some people may reach out first, but if not, you can at least begin to build a connection through consistent communication. Then you can take the next step to send a personal message.

### 23-2

- 2 Another tip is to go with the natural flow of the conversation and be patient. Although most people have their phones on them, they don't always have time to respond to messages. Try to avoid messaging multiple times in a row if you are not receiving a response. If you seem too eager and demanding for responses or ask to meet too quickly, they may end up pulling back.

### 23-3

- 3 One of the many questions you might have about online friendships is probably if they are as meaningful as in-person relationships. Psychologists have found that even though the connection is made online, the emotional and psychological benefits of these friendships equal those of face-to-face relationships. The main components of friendship are intimacy, commitment and the freedom to choose to become friends with whomever you wish. Online friendships maintain these three things. Online friendships are also very useful for those who have social anxiety

or are shy. Other perks of online friendships have a more practical nature; for students who attend online college, the online atmosphere that supports friendships allows for students to connect and work together, just like they would if they were geographically in the same place. This means that because of digital communication, you are now able to make friends from all over the world. Back in the day, this was not such an easy accomplishment!

#### 23-4

- 4 When it comes to choosing friends online and using applications, you may narrow down your search to be very specific. You may see things you aren't looking for and swipe left instead of right on what could potentially have become your next best friend. Sometimes, it pays to keep an open mind when online friendship matching. This is because it can mirror your experience in real life. Think of this: when you go out in public places, you never know who you will meet. The randomness of new connections is sometimes what makes them all the more worthwhile. As such, you should practice the same open-minded attitude when meeting people online. That way, you can expand your opportunities to meet new people. Only once you get to know them better can you truly assess whether or not it is a relationship worth pursuing.
  
- 5 The bottom line is that making friends online is equally important as having friends in real-life. Knowing how to make friends online can change your life! Online friends can become friends in person or remain digital. Regardless of how or where you meet them online, the depth of your relationship depends on your effort, time, and communication. Having a strong community of friends will improve your overall quality of life. When you're attending online university, it is really beneficial to meet people in a similar situation so that you can share thoughts, rely on one another for support, and develop meaningful friendships over time.

*uopeople.edu, 2020*