Some of the most common struggles online students encounter are
- Building the needed routines and behaviors necessary to find success
- Balancing family responsibilities with bootcamp responsibilities

Thus, we recommend you take two critical steps to set yourself up for success:
1. Create a weekly calendar (and stick to it)
2. Coordinate with your friends and family to offload some of your household responsibilities

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Building Routine and Behavior

You may discover that you need more time each week to work on your learning than you planned. Humans are notoriously bad at estimating how long something is going to take us to do. So, here are a few tips and tricks to help you avoid this pitfall:

Overestimate Time Needed

The Part-Time Online program expects you to dedicate **at least** 20 hours per week in the learning platform working through content. So, for the first few weeks, allocate 24 hrs for that work. It is easier to scale back than scale up. Then, as you progress through the course, check in with yourself. Do you need to scale up? Scale down? Is it just right?

It's important to note that the number of hours you need may change as you get further into the curriculum and encounter new languages or new concepts, so check in with yourself every couple of weeks to ensure you're allotting the proper amount of time.

Create a Calendar (and Stick with It)

Yes. It sounds simple, but a calendar can be shared with family and friends to help you stay accountable and to get insight into when you're going to be heads down. It also gives you a reality check into how much time you actually spend. This is part of the planning fallacy mentioned above. So, for your first few weeks, plan for more than 20 hours in the course content and adjust based on what you learn.

Depending on your previous coding experience, the number of hours needed in the learning content may be more or less than other students. Learn what *you* need, and then allocate as necessary.

Finally, we recommend - every Sunday - you identify what modules you commit to get done and when you will work on them. You should create a similar calendar **every week** so you can plan ahead to manage all of your time.

Take a look at the example calendar on the next page.

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Example Time on Task

The below example calendar where a student is dedicating:

- 24 hrs working in the learning platform,
- 4 hrs attending lectures,
- and 2 hrs attending office hours.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10am - Noon Catchup w/ friends 1pm - 3pm Check in with MatterMost, answer questions, and work on assignments 3pm - 7pm Family Time 7pm - 9pm Finish organizing home office for bootcamp; Prep for week.	6am - 8am Workout 9am - 5pm Work 5pm - 6pm Dinner w/ fam 6pm -8pm HTML 8pm Put kiddos to bed 8:30pm - 10pm HTML	6am - 8am HTML 9am - 5pm Work 5pm - 6pm Dinner @ computer; prep for orientation 6pm - 8pm Orientation + Lecture 8pm - 10pm Apply lecture stuffs and continue working on assignments	6am - 8am Workout 9am - 5pm Work 5pm - 6pm Dinner w/ fam 6pm -8pm HTML 8pm Put kiddos to bed 8:30pm - 10pm HTML	6am - 8am HTML 9am - 5pm Work 5pm - 6pm Dinner @ computer w/ Office Hours 6pm - 8pm Lecture 8pm - 10pm Apply lecture stuffs and continue working on assignments	6am - 8am CSS 9am - 5pm Work 5pm - 6pm Dinner 6pm - 8pm CSS 8pm Put kiddos to bed 8:30pm - 10pm Rest	6am - 8am Workout 8am - 10am CSS 11am - 1pm Sadie's Soccer 1pm - 5pm Family Time 5pm - 6pm Dinner 6pm - 8pm Family Time 8pm Put kiddos to bed 8:30pm - 10pm CSS

Balancing Responsibilities

Going through any bootcamp is demanding, so it's important to get everyone in your immediate circles onboard to help. We highly recommend you do the following activity with

- those who live in your household
- any dependents you have
- your coworkers (if you're planning to work while in the bootcamp).

It's important both for you and for them to see how they can support you during the bootcamp. Bonus: now is the time to use the bootcamp as an excuse to get out of your least favorite chore or hand off that one project at work.

ACTIVITY: My Responsibilities Chart
Host a meeting and complete the following as a team.

Step 1:
Give each member a copy of the My Responsibilities Chart.

Step 2:
Each person lists all their responsibilities in the first column. Be as specific as you can. Check out the example from a family meeting.

Step 3:
Read this script;
"As you know, I'm about to start a new chapter in my life, and I'm excited about it. I'm going to be spending a lot of time and energy pursuing this new journey, and I need all of your help to be successful. Part of this means that I need help with some of my big responsibilities. My goal is to ensure that I can dedicate at least 30 hrs a week to my intensive learning program. Can you help me make that happen?"

Now, review your current responsibilities list out loud and work with others to identify which ones other members can take those on. This might mean that some of the responsibilities need to be put on hold while you're in the program. For home life, things like home projects - unless necessary for living conditions - should get shifted off until after the bootcamp. For work life, where can you scale back while still meeting your needs. This also might mean that you need to swap bigger responsibilities with a smaller one. If that's the case, add that into the "I'm Taking On" column.

Remember, this is a temporary shift in responsibilities.

Once you and your group have reviewed and redistributed responsibilities, each person should fill in the last column so they have a clean list of what they are responsible for while you are in the bootcamp.

An example of a student's Family Responsibilities is below, after which is a blank template for you to use.

MY RESPONSIBILITY CHART

Currently, I'm responsible for	I am handing off ____ (to)	I am taking on ____ (from)	During the bootcamp, I am responsible for
Getting kids up, fed, and dressed every day	Getting kids up, fed, and dressed on weekdays (Marie)	Bedtime Routine M, W, F, Sat (Marie)	Getting kids up, fed, and dressed on weekends.
Carpooling duty M, W, F.	Carpooling duty → Marie will find another parent will do it	Dusting and vacuuming (Marie)	Bedtime Routine M, W, F, Sat
Grocery shopping.		Taking Sadie to/from soccer (Marie)	Dusting and vacuuming
Lawn mowing.	Lawn mowing (Jacque → show him how to use the mower)		Taking Sadie to/from soccer
Dinner M. W, F, Sat.			Grocery Shopping
Assistant Coaching Soccer	Call Ron to see if he will take this on. Work with coach to offload this by end of week.		Dinner M, W, F, Sat
Laundry.	Laundry (Saide! Nice job, Sadie)		

MY RESPONSIBILITY CHART

Currently, I'm responsible for	I am handing off ____ (to)	I am taking on ____ (from)	During the bootcamp, I am responsible for