

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE LAB

1. Most of the laboratory components of this course will engage you with using map- and imagery-based visualization and analysis; the activities have been designed by NASA, ESRI, IRIS, NOAA. You will use GIS software of diverse types and perform investigations of topics and issues that we have covered in the class lectures and discussions. Some weeks will comprise several short topical activities; some weeks will comprise one longer activity. I strongly recommend using the biggest screen you have available for these lab activities. You will be performing the kind of geospatial analyses that are considered critical skills across diverse career pathways, using commercial-grade software. While you will not have to download any software, you should be aware that as a student you can download free versions of many geospatial software tools if you want to expand your experiences with geospatial technology. You will also be using documentary video resources from the “Switch On” energy education project.
2. **These labs use software that you may not be familiar with. If you get stuck, please communicate with the instructor when you have questions at rebecca.dodge@msutexas.edu**
3. Unless the questions are about D2I issues. Please use these links:
 - a. **Distance Education »MSU Texas »**
 - b. **Online Problem Reporting System**
4. Answer the guiding questions in the Student Sheets each week as you proceed through the assigned projects. The formats for the sheets differ according to the software platform you are using. You will not turn these in most weeks.
5. Use these answers while you take the weekly lab quiz. I highly recommend that you take the quiz at the same time you are doing the labs. The quizzes track the labs, and this will keep you on track with key content.
6. Understand the **Lab Schedule** and keep track of Upcoming Events on the home page.
7. Set aside specific time to complete the laboratory assignments
 - a. Lab assignments are typically due in the week following their appearance on the schedule. For example, the Energy Transitions Lab is assigned in Week 2 and the lab Quiz is due on the following Wednesday in Week 3, at 11:55 pm. The lab quizzes close (*become inaccessible*) after 11:55 pm on the due date. ***Do not wait until the evening of the due date to get started on any given lab assignment.***
8. Accept that you will need to spend an amount of time on this online lab that is equivalent to the time you would spend on a face-to-face lab component. If you were taking this course in person, you would have pre-lab work and work during the lab period.

That should translate to at least three hours a week for a lab like this.