

# IS ONLINE LEARNING RIGHT FOR ME?

Will online courses fit your circumstances and lifestyle? This short questionnaire will help you determine if online learning is right for you. Answer each question and score yourself as directed at the end. Be sure to read the “Things you should know about online courses” at the end of the questionnaire.

1. It is important that I take this course now:
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
2. I prefer working on my own rather than being part of a classroom:
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
3. I usually get things done on time or ahead of time without someone reminding me.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
4. I don't need a classroom discussion in order to learn well.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
5. I prefer reading instructions on my own, rather than having the instructions explained to me.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
6. I am disciplined and self-directed.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
7. It is difficult for me to come to campus on a regular schedule.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

8. I have good reading skills.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
9. I express myself well through writing.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
10. When I need help understanding something, I am comfortable asking for help.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
11. I am familiar with using the Internet.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
12. I have reliable Internet access on a regular basis.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
13. I am familiar with using software such as Microsoft Word or Pages.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
14. I am familiar with using e-mail and functions such as attaching files.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
15. I am familiar with downloading and installing software.
- A. Yes
  - B. No

## SCORING

If you answered **YES** to at least half of these questions, online learning could be a good option for you.

If you answered **YES** to fewer than half, online learning may not be the best option for you. Talk to an Education Advisor to help you make the best decision.

## 8 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ONLINE COURSES

1. Some students prefer the independence of online courses; others miss being part of the classroom experience.
2. Some people learn best by interacting with other students and instructors. Others learn better by listening, reading and reviewing on their own. Online courses provide less opportunity for group interaction than most on-campus courses.
3. Online courses give students greater freedom of scheduling, but they can require more self-discipline than on-campus classes. If you tend to put things off until the last minute, online courses may not be a good option for you.
4. It's important to have good reading skills if you're planning to take an online course because written materials are the main source of directions and information in online courses.
5. Online courses often require about 8 to 10 hours of work (reading and assignments) per week. Most students say that online courses are just as challenging –or even more challenging– than classroom courses.
6. It's important to feel comfortable typing and working on a computer, since online courses often require that you attach files to email, download software, and upload documents.
7. Having an important reason for taking the course helps motivate you to stick with the course. Otherwise, some students neglect their online course-work because of personal or professional circumstances.
8. Most people who are successful with online courses find it difficult to come to campus on a regular basis because of their work/family/personal schedules.

