



ARE YOU AN ONLINE LEARNER?

As you can imagine, online courses are very different from the traditional classroom environment that you might be most familiar with. While online courses do offer tremendous flexibility, they also require self-discipline, strong reading and writing skills, and the ability to work independently.

Review the below questions and answer them honestly.

- *Would you consider yourself to be a self-motivated learner?*
- *Do you like to learn independently?*
- *Do you enjoy writing?*
- *Do you have strong reading skills?*
- *Are you able to problem-solve independently?*
- *Do you prefer learning on your own with no immediate interactions from your instructor or classmate?*
- *Are you willing to devote more time to an online course than you may normally expect with a traditional classroom class?*
- *Do you have good time- management skills?*
- *Can you meet deadlines?*
- *Are you able to set priorities when faced with a number of tasks?*
- *Do you often find yourself completing assignments ahead of schedule?*
- *Are you able to check your email at least once a day?*
- *Do you have access to a computer and reliable internet access?*
- *Would you be willing to log on once a day to check for assignments and messages?*
- *Are you comfortable with sending & receiving email?*
- *Are you able to work online for long periods of time?*
- *Are you comfortable with using Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint?*
- *Are you comfortable downloading files?*
- *Does your computer have sound & a webcam?*

If you answer mostly **YES** to the questions, online may be right for you. If you answer mostly **NO** to the questions, then you want to think if this method of learning would really be the best fit for you.

Students who prefer <u>online</u> courses...	Students who prefer traditional <u>classroom</u> classes...
<i>Have excellent time management skills</i>	<i>Work better in a structured time environment</i>
<i>Enjoy communicating with others through email and discussion forums</i>	<i>Like the social interaction of a face-to-face classroom environment</i>
<i>Learn best by reading and watching</i>	<i>Learn best by listening and speaking</i>
<i>Are committed to allocating the time to complete and submit assignments on time</i>	<i>Are committed to attend a 4 hour class each week for 5 consecutive weeks</i>
<i>Have convenient and reliable access to the internet and email</i>	<i>Has limited access to the internet and email</i>
<i>Are self-motivated</i>	<i>Are motivated by others</i>
<i>Have some computer skills and comfortable navigating the internet</i>	<i>Are uncomfortable using a computer</i>
<i>Enjoy taking control of their own learning</i>	<i>Like more direction/structure provided by the instructor</i>

COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS

Minimum Requirements

Processor:	Intel Core 2 Duo Processor or higher (Intel Core i5 or above recommended)
Memory:	4 GB RAM or higher
Hard Disk:	80 GB Hard Drive or higher (160 GB recommended)
Video Card:	128 MB or higher
Network:	Broadband Internet Connection (wireless)
Optical Drive:	16x CD-RW/DVD
Operating System:	Windows 7 or above MAC OS 10.5 or above
Accessories:	Webcam & Speakers
Hardware:	Internal or external microphone or headset

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

- **Microsoft Office 2010 or higher.** Once enrolled, students are eligible to download copies through Office 365.
- **Mozilla Firefox Version 54 or higher.** Desire2Learn (D2L), our online learning management system, is the main interface among students and faculty. D2L can be accessed with most browsers, however, for full functionality we recommend Mozilla Firefox.