

Is Online Learning Right for Me?

Online learning is not for every student, but it can be an excellent choice for some. You do need to understand that learning online can be just as difficult and sometimes more difficult than taking a class in a traditional classroom.

How much work is an online course?

It depends on the course, but you should expect to login to Canvas every other day just like you would check in with your teachers at your boundary school every other day. Every message, assignment and grade will be sent to you in Canvas. Check in very often to make sure you don't miss important messages or deadlines. Each of your teachers will be able to give you more information about how much time you will need to spend in each of your classes.

When considering taking an online course, students should consider the following:

- How do you want online to fit in your life?
- When do you plan to do your coursework?
- Do you want to take a class in addition to your full schedule, or are you replacing a class period and leaving campus to go do it?
- Is this for original credit, credit recovery, or accelerated credit?
- Do you need a teacher in the room, or can you work independently and finish work on schedule? • Do you have the technology and connectivity at home?
- How are your computer skills?
- Do parents/guardians understand they are the learning coach, and expected to monitor activity and grades, respond to emails and assist with successful completion?

Online Learning Assessment

The following statements can help you assess your personal attributes and computer skills necessary for online learning.

Personal Attributes

1. I am good at setting goals and deadlines for myself.
2. I can keep myself on track and on time.
3. I am self-motivated.
4. I will have at least the same amount of time, or more, to devote to my online course as I would to a face-to-face course.
5. I am able to locate a quiet place to work that is set aside from other uses.
6. I feel that high quality learning can take place without going to a traditional classroom.
7. I can create and print a document.
8. I can cut, copy and paste.
9. I can open, move and rename files and folders.
10. I am comfortable with email, attaching files, and saving attachments.
11. I am willing to use email and other online tools to ask my classmates and instructors questions.
12. I am comfortable with things like installing software and changing configuration settings on my computer.
13. I am comfortable with things like doing searches, setting bookmarks, and downloading files.
14. I am connected to the Internet with a fairly fast, reliable Internet connection such as DSL or cable modem.
15. I know what netiquette is and what it means in regards to an online environment.
16. I know where to get help, and am willing to seek it if I have technical problems.