

# Are YOU READY TO LEARN ONLINE?



Taking courses online is an exciting way to learn...

But its not for everyone.

**This is an informal and unofficial questionnaire to help you decide if online courses are right for you.** Think about your response to these questions and how you will work through these aspects of online learning if you choose to proceed. You may also want to consider whether online learning is a good choice for you right now.

**Our best advice** if you are not sure if online learning is for you: call or email the instructor of the online course or contact [Cori Dunagan, Director of Distance Learning](#) at 1-800-388-8557, ext. 1255.



## 10 Questions to Ask Yourself

### 1. Do you have internet access?

Distance Education courses, such as online or web-enhanced classes, require regular access to a computer with an internet connection. If one is not readily available, you might have a difficult time completing the course requirements.

### 2. Can you type?

Distance education courses involve a lot of typing-papers, emails and online discussion. If you cannot type, we recommend you take a keyboarding class first and possibly hire someone to type your papers.

### 3. Does the thought of doing a lot of reading terrify you?

Distance education courses are reading intensive and require you to work from written directions. If you uncomfortable with this; face-to-face classroom instruction may be a better approach for you.

### 4. Do you know how to use email and word processing software?

These software applications play a major role in communicating at a distance. If you are unfamiliar with these applications, we recommend you take some basic training in these areas.

### 5. Are you self-motivated and self-disciplined or do you procrastinate?

Distance education gives you a lot of freedom, but requires you to effectively manage your time. When no one is watching or class attendance is not required, it is easy to put off schoolwork and get behind. You need to be able to plan and schedule consistent time to participate in and work on class activities.

### 6. Are you comfortable communicating in writing?

The majority of communication in distance education courses is done in writing. You need to be comfortable communicating your thoughts in writing, rather than verbally, if you are to be successful.

### 7. Do you have an average of 9 to 12 hours to study?

Online courses require a considerable amount of time. If your schedule does not allow sufficient time each week to devote to the course, you may want to consider holding off on this method of study until you have the time to devote to it.

### 8. Do you think a distance education course is less work than a face-to-face class?

Distance education requires as much, if not more, time than a traditional class. The responsibility for learning is on you. The reading and online components require that you be dedicated and conscientious in order to be successful.

### 9. Do your family and friends support your decision to take classes?

If the answer is no or you are unsure, you need to consider the level of commitment involved in taking a distance education course and discuss it with your family. Developing a support network is important. Family and friends can sabotage the best-laid study plans if you do not know how to respond to demands and distractions.

### 10. Do you feel face-to-face interaction is necessary for you?

Some people prefer face-to face instruction. They like to be part of a class and learn best when interacting with the instructor or other students. Distance education is much more independent and if this model fits your learning style than it may be for you.