

Distance Learning Self-Assessment

Online learning is an ideal learning mode for some students, but may be less than optimal for others. Distance courses are a convenient way of uninterrupted education for those who cannot participate in regularly scheduled residential (on-campus) classes, those who prefer self-paced mode of learning, and those who enjoy technology in every aspect of their lives. Online learning can be a wonderful experience – rich and comprehensive, intellectually challenging and schedule-friendly, **but it is not for everyone**. The most important thing is that online courses should not be considered as an easy way to earn credits. Many experienced online students will tell you that often times, online classes require more time, more energy, more resources, and definitely – more discipline and independence.

As a part of making decision to enroll in your first online class, take this test to see how well distance learning courses fit your personal circumstances and characteristics.

	Question	Yes	No
1	Are you able to work independently?		
2	Are you able to manage your time effectively?		
3	Do you enjoy new learning experiences?		
4	Are you able to daily access and operate a computer with a high-speed Internet?		
5	Are you resourceful and persistent when you are solving problems?		
6	As a reader, are you able to understand text of a reference book or a college text without help?		
7	Can you read a very interesting book or watch an amazing movie and not to call someone to share for a day or two?		
8	When asked to use computers, new cell phones, VCRs, recording devices, Skype, voice recognition software and knowing that the equipment is either new or unfamiliar to you, are you excited about having a new technology experience?		
9	Considering your schedule at the time of potential enrollment, are you able to have at least 14 hours a week devoted to the coursework?		
10	Are you able to self-assess your performance (writing) without having an immediate verbal feedback from the faculty or peers		
11	Are you interested in what others (non-faculty) think and have to say about the topic?		
12	When buying a new thing requiring assembly, are you good in using instructions without any help?		
13	Do you usually complete tasks ahead of time?		
14	Do you remember birthdays of at least ten people without reminders?		
15	Were you able to read and understand all the questions without dictionaries or other help?		
16	Do you feel that virtual community (chat rooms, blogs, etc.) provides the best opportunity to learn and to contribute your knowledge?		

If you answer “Yes” to at least 14 questions, online courses are a real possibility for you. If you answered “Yes” to 10 -13 questions, online courses may work for you, but you will need to put some additional efforts (new knowledge and skills, adjusted habits, changed schedule) in order to succeed. If you answer “Yes” to less than 10 questions, online classes may not work really well for you. In any case, please talk to us, so we can help you to design the best learning environment.