Are Online Courses Right For You?

Take the quiz below to determine if online learning is right for you.

Instructions: Choose the most accurate response for each statement. Scoring guidelines are located at the end of the quiz.

1. **My access to a computer is best described as:**

   a. I have a home computer or laptop.

   b. I have a tablet or wireless device.

   c. I do not have a computer or device.

2. **My home Internet access is best described as:**

   a. I have broadband Internet.

   b. I have dial-up Internet.

   c. I do not have Internet at my home.

3. **I would rate my ability to use the Internet as:**

   a. Very good. I can use the Internet to search for materials, download and upload files, and check and send email.

   b. Average. I can use email and the Internet.

   c. Basic. I am not familiar with using the Internet.

4. **I would rate my ability with office applications (e.g. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel) as:**

   a. Very good. I am skilled at formatting and designing documents.

   b. Average. I can use word processing software to create documents.

   c. Basic. I am not familiar with these applications.

5. **When I need help in class:**

    a.   I feel comfortable asking for help from the instructor at a distance through email or discussion forums, even for difficult problems.

    b.   I feel comfortable asking for help from the instructor at a distance, but for difficult problems, I prefer face-to-face communication.

    c.   I prefer having my questions answered by the instructor in a face-to-face manner.

6. **The amount of time I have to devote to my online courses each week is:**

    a.   10-15 hours per week

    b.   5-10 hours per week

    c.   Less than 5 hours per week

7. **I would rate my reading abilities as:**

    a.   Very good. I am a quick reader and usually retain what I read. I have no problem reading digital materials.

    b.   Average. I read at an average speed and retain most of what I read. I have no problem reading digital materials.

    c.   Basic. I prefer print reading materials, read at a slower speed, and sometimes struggle to retain what I read.

8. **I would describe my writing ability as:**

    a.   Very good. I can clearly and consistently express myself through writing.

    b.   Average. I can usually express myself through writing.

    c.   Basic. I sometimes struggle with expressing myself through writing.

9. **I would rate my time management skills as:**

    a.   Very good. I am motivated and skilled at organizing my time and tasks.

    b.   Average. I am motivated but have some difficulty organizing my time and tasks.

    c.   Basic. I am not motivated and need help remembering to complete my assignments.

10. **I would describe my comfort level with technology as:**

    a.   I like to learn new things and master new technologies.

    b.   New technology makes me uncomfortable, but I enjoy learning.

    c.   New technology makes me uncomfortable, and I would rather not try it.

Scoring Instructions:

If you frequently answered (a) to the readiness questions, you are a good candidate for online learning and have the appropriate equipment and abilities to succeed.

If you frequently answered (b) to the readiness questions, you may be a good candidate for online learning. You might consider working on strengthening your study skills or getting more comfortable with online learning before signing up for a class.

If you frequently answered (c) to the readiness questions, you may do better in a face-to-face class in a more traditional classroom setting. Consider signing up for a face-to-face College Skills course to improve your studying and technology skills if you would like to take an online course in the future.

If you don't have regular access to a computer and the internet, you may want to consider investing in a home computer and internet access before signing up for an online course. It will be very difficult to access your courses and complete assignments if you don't have regular access to a computer and the internet.

Here are some NIC resources:

Advising Services	Faculty Directory
Canvas Student Orientation	Help Desk
Cardinal Commons	Molstead Library
Disability Support Services	Testing Center
eLearning Student Support	Writing Center