

## Online Learning – What is it? Is it right for you?

Online learning courses are not for everyone and before you enroll in one, you should know how they are similar – and how they are different –from traditional on-campus courses. Nearly all students have experience with the traditional face-to-face classroom experience where you see fellow students and the instructor once or twice a week. Online learning courses, however, may mean that you never actually see your classmates or instructor, instead relying on course software to communicate with others, to complete your class work, and to do research.

What makes a good Online learning student?

- Highly motivated
- Independent learners
- Active and self-directed learners
- Good at organizing their work and time
- Disciplined; they can study and do work without constant reminders
- Flexible and open to new learning experiences

Still not sure if Online learning is right for you? Then we encourage you to take the following Self-Assessment to help you decide.

### Online Learning Self-Assessment for Students

This survey is based on many in the field that are designed to highlight some of the attributes of a successful Online learning student. If you are not sure if Online learning is right for you, we suggest you take a few minutes and answer these questions. They cover technical aspects, learning preferences, and study skills. The answers to each question are either 'yes' or 'no.' Keep track of the number of times you answer 'yes' to a question, and at the bottom, you will find instructions on how to score your assessment.

#### Your Learning Environment (answer 'yes' or 'no')

Yes / No      I have a specific place where I can study and work on my course assignments.

Yes / No      The place I will study is relatively quiet and free from interruptions.

#### Your Life and Academic Skills

Yes / No      I am a self-motivated student.

Yes / No      I am able to work independently, with little direction.

Yes / No      I am self-disciplined and can stay on task and meet deadlines.

Yes / No      I do not get easily discouraged when I run into difficulties.

- Yes / No I think of myself as a good student, that is, I take good notes, prepare and study for exams, write well, and have good study habits.
- Yes / No I can read for comprehension from a wide range of materials, such as books, journals, or web sites.
- Yes / No I am comfortable e-mailing or calling an instructor to ask questions if I do not understand an assignment or have difficulty completing my work.
- Yes / No I am comfortable making points and asking questions for clarification, whether it is face-to-face, through e-mail, or through an online chat.
- Yes / No I can work independently, without the traditional class arrangement of students and teacher being in the same room at the same time.

### **Your Course Expectations**

- Yes / No I expect to be able to spend 6 – 8 hours per week on my Online learning course.
- Yes / No I would expect to spend as much time in a Online learning course as I would for a course I took on campus.

### **You and Technology**

- Yes / No I am comfortable working on the computer and finding information on the Internet for web-based research.
- Yes / No I am comfortable learning new technology skills if need be.
- Yes / No I can create, save, and manage files on my computer (such as in Word).
- Yes / No I know how to send and receive e-mail attachments.
- Yes / No I know how to paste text from a word processing program into an e-mail.
- Yes / No If I do not have a computer at home, I know where I can access one on campus or some other location so I can do my coursework each week.
- Yes / No I can work collaboratively with classmates to complete a group project by using e-mail or an Internet-based discussion forum or a live chat.

### **Total up the number of 'yes' responses you gave.**

If you answered 'yes' to 15 or more, you would likely be a good candidate for a Online learning course. If you answered 'yes' to less than 15 questions, you may want to rethink your reasons for taking a Online learning course and discuss it with your academic advisor. Call the Legal Education Institute to schedule an appointment with an advisor (302) 477-2205.