

Online Summer Learning with Elizabethtown College

Is online learning right for me and am I right for online learning?

Online courses can open up exciting opportunities for learning in different ways, at different times, with different peers. But it's not for everyone. It takes a particular type of student to succeed in an online learning community. Learners must be self-motivated and self-disciplined. To be successful in an online learning environment, you must be able to manage your time, focus your attention, and enjoy a more visual learning style.

If you have trouble with time management skills and struggle to meet deadlines, then an online course may not be right for you at this time. As well, if you like face-to-face interaction and rely heavily on verbal exchanges to help you process information, then a traditional classroom setting may be the learning environment where you will obtain the best learning outcomes. If you believe that an online course will be an easy and quick way to accumulate credits, then you have misperceptions about this type of course.

Take a few minutes to answer the following questions as honestly as possible. If you can honestly answer most of them with a "yes," then you may succeed in an online course. But if the honest answer to many of these questions is a "no," then you need to give serious consideration to whether an online course is in your best learning interests. Don't set yourself up for frustration and possible failure if you do not have the qualities that are well-suited to the online format.

1. I have regular access to a computer and am very comfortable using it.
2. I am a good reader and readily understand new material that I read.
3. When I have trouble with an assignment, I don't have any problems emailing the instructor to ask for clarification.
4. I like to do a lot of my communicating through electronic methods.
5. I am always able to organize my course assignments so that they fit reasonably well with my other activities (work, family, etc.).
6. I usually do not procrastinate with assignments, preferring instead to get them done in a timely manner.
7. I think an online course will take as much time, or maybe even more time, than a regular classroom-based course.
8. If I encounter a problem, I work to find a solution without getting overly frustrated.
9. I have a place and time in mind for where and when I'll work on my course. My family (friends, spouse, children, whoever) understands that I will be taking an online course and will respect my need to devote time and thought to this enterprise.
10. I think I have good study habits in the regular classroom, including listening and taking good notes, contributing to discussions, reading assignments by the due date, studying for quizzes and exams, and asking for help if I don't understand something.
11. I feel that I am primarily responsible for what I get out of a course.
12. I am familiar with Elizabethtown's Pledge of Integrity and I fully understand that this applies to the online classroom and to all work that I complete for an online course.