

Online Course Readiness Self-Assessment

Is taking an online class a good fit for you?

Asynchronous online learning (the format of this course) requires different skills than learning in a traditional face-to-face class. It's important to know what you're getting into and to understand the kind of commitment that's necessary for success. You can get a good idea of your readiness for online learning by filling out the following assessment.

This assessment is for informational purposes only and is not required for enrollment. For additional help figuring out whether an online class is a worthwhile option for you, consult with your academic advisor.

Instructions: For each statement below select whether you Agree or Disagree. When you are finished please press submit. Your score will be located at the top right of the screen. Read the guidelines for interpreting your score found at the end of the self-assessment and review any comments listed with your answers.

This material is based on original content by Glenn Pillsbury at Stanislaus State, which was published freely under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license at <https://www.csustan.edu/teach-online/online-readiness-self-assessment>.

1. I am ok with time management but have had to ask professors/instructors/teachers for extensions in the past. (4 points)
 - Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** It is important in an online asynchronous course to manage your time well, balancing your coursework with your other responsibilities, such as work, childcare, etc. The most successful students in online courses will have budgeted out their time to allow sufficient time for each of their classes and other responsibilities in their lives. This course requires a commitment of 6-8 hours per week. Make sure that you can give yourself that. You should login at least three different days during the week.

2. If I can't figure out something, I am not comfortable asking my classmates or the instructor for help via LMS, email, discussion board, or chat. Meeting with my professor in person to ask questions is more comfortable for me. (4 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** In an online course it is important that you ask questions when you have them. However, think about how you ask the question and where you go to seek answers. Are you asking about due dates, the structure of the course, or other course policy related topics, you can find those answers in the syllabus and the welcome information module. If you have other types of questions that you were not able to answer by reviewing the course content, send them to your instructor or ask your fellow classmates for help.
3. My computer is 5-7 years old and I have trouble downloading or installing additional software. ~~—or—~~ I do not have my own computer and use the computer labs on campus or someone else's computer to do my work. (3 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** It is not required that you go out and buy a brand new computer to participate in this course, but you may find that an older computer does not interface as well with the LMS or is slow to download, upload, or open pages. You can check out laptops from the library on campus to use during the term if needed. If you are using a cell phone to complete this course, you may find it much more challenging to complete your work.
4. It's hard for me to predict when I'll be able to do the online work. I will not have 6-8 hours each week to work on this course. Besides, I thought you could do the work whenever you wanted...right? (3 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** This is tied into the previous statement. It is important that you have 6-8 hours per week to dedicate to this course. Students often make the mistake of thinking that taking an online version of a course is easier and then are overwhelmed by the

amount of work they actually need to do. The most successful students in online courses will budget out the time required for each of their classes and other responsibilities.

5. I get distracted easily while studying and need a lot of time to accomplish my work. (3 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** It is important in an online synchronous course to stay on task and avoid distractions, such as texting, social media, etc. during your designated study time. The students who are most successful in online courses tend to be self-directed, self-disciplined, and independent.
6. I usually need direct explanation by an instructor and face-to-face interaction with peers to feel comfortable learning material. (3 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** Online asynchronous courses require that students be able to read and study independently. The most successful students in online courses are comfortable taking initiative in their own learning to review the content of the course and ask questions for clarification or more complex or nuanced understanding of the material, rather than questions, such as "what's our assignment?" as that information is readily available in the Canvas course shell.
7. I have found using formal grammar and spelling to be a challenge in expressing myself or I am not familiar with how to write using formal grammar and spelling. (3 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** It is important in an academic setting to be able to share our thoughts using formal writing conventions and speaking styles. Text and emoji shorthand are not appropriate for this setting. If you need help with your writing, please stop by the library or contact the tutoring center for help. The most successful students in online

courses can express their ideas, thoughts, and make arguments in a formal setting. This includes assignments, discussion forums, and email.

8. I have regular access only to low-speed Internet, such as a mobile hotspot or can only access the internet via Wi-Fi in public places such as the library, Starbucks, etc. (2 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** To be successful in this online asynchronous course it is important that you have reliable access to a high-speed internet connection.
9. I do not have access to a webcam or microphone for simple multimedia participation. I will need to borrow or check out these items. (2 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** You will need to have access to video and voice recording software as some of our activities and assignments require them.
10. To help me learn best, I require a structured lecture. I do not learn well when a variety of formats (lectures, videos, podcasts, online discussion/conferencing) are used. (2 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** Online asynchronous courses offer a variety of instructional formats such as readings, lectures, videos, etc. It is important that you are able to utilize diverse formats to help you learn.
11. I retain information better if I hear it spoken directly to me. (2 points)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** In this and other online asynchronous courses, you will need to be able to engage in active reading of the course

materials and retain that information as you will have less access to face-to-face time with me, your instructor.

12. I have never checked or don't know how to check my official student email account. (1 point)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** It is important that you know how to check your student email for official communications for this course. Announcements will be sent via LMS and you will be notified in your email when a new announcement appears.
13. I have never really posted messages to an online forum before and/or don't know how to use the discussion board feature. (1 point)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** Distance education courses require opportunities for student-to-student interactions. Discussion boards are one way to facilitate those interactions. Please make sure you are comfortable with participating in discussion forums and other discussion tools.
14. I have little or no experience accessing and using the LMS and I am not familiar with using the most common tools (announcements, modules, gradebook). (1 point)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)
 - **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** As an online asynchronous course, all of the content of the course is provided in the LMS course shell. It is advised that students spend time navigating the course and the LMS overall to be prepared for interacting and participating in the course.
15. I am not comfortable or proficient working with files on a computer (word, Google docs, pdf, etc.). (1 point)
- Agree (Incorrect)
 - Disagree (Correct)

- **Feedback for an incorrect answer:** To be successful in this online asynchronous course you should be comfortable and proficient at creating, saving, locating, and opening different types of files on a computer, such as Word, Google Docs, PDFs, etc.

Interpreting Your Results

A total score of **17 or Lower** is a strong indication that you will likely face more challenges than may be desired in an online class. While online may not be the best choice at the moment, if you are still interested in being an online student, you should understand some of the challenges and what you need to do to overcome them. Review this article from Northeastern University about [How to be a Successful Online Learner: 9 Tips & Strategies](#).

Questions that are worth "3" or "4" points address crucial study skills needed for an online class. Questions weighted "1" and "2" are also important for an online class, but many of the topics they address are things that don't automatically block a student's academic success in the class or can be remedied once the class begins.

If you selected "Agree" for any of the questions above, please review the feedback of what you need to do to be prepared for participating in this online asynchronous course.