

Is Online Learning For Me?

The best way to determine if online learning is for you, is to understand what it takes to be successful. Answer **Yes** or **No** to the following statements to see if you might be a successful student in an online course:

1. Essential

- I like to work independently and have enough self-discipline to learn without face-to-face classes.
- I have reliable access to a computer and an internet connection. (A broadband connection is preferred, but not essential).
- I know how to use a computer to browse the web, do word processing and send email (Training is available at EIT to gain these skills).
- Typing is not a problem for me; I may not be fast but I'm usually accurate.
- I don't mind reading.
- I can set and complete goals on my own and on time.
- I will be able to attend scheduled exams and workshops.
- I am willing to dedicate the same amount of time and effort to an online learning course as I would to a traditional course.

These **Essential** statements focus on the very basic needs of online learning. You really need to answer **Yes** to all eight to be successful. If you did, continue...

2. Important

- I can plan my time on a weekly basis for an online course (EIT's Learning Services can provide assistance if necessary).
- I'm confident about downloading files or installing a program.
- Exploring new things appeals to me.
- Asking questions doesn't worry me.
- I am happy to work at a computer for extended periods of time.
- Learning with other students through online individual and group communication tools sounds like fun.

If you answered **No** to one or two of the **Important** statements you're doing fine. More than that and you may need additional support to become an online student.

Finally, continue with this last set of statements...

3. Bonus

- Having the freedom to choose when I study, matches the way I like to work.
- Sometimes I find that when I write, I can organise my thoughts better than when I speak.
- I have wanted to take courses in the past, but was unable to combine them with work or family responsibilities.
- I enjoy exchanging ideas with my classmates.
- Direct, personal teacher feedback is something I value and benefit from.
- Attending class without worrying about transportation & parking sounds great!
- I like to communicate through email or chat channels.
- In class, sometimes my best answers were the ones I thought of just after the one I gave.
- Sharing a class with people from all over New Zealand sounds like a great opportunity.

Any of the above is a bonus. The more **Yes** answers you have, the better online learning will suit you.