Is Online Learning Right for You?

Medical College of Wisconsin
Master of Public Health Program
What is online learning?

- Online courses or programs refer to instruction delivered completely via the computer using one or more internet-based programs.

- The program used by the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Master of Public Health (MPH) Program is called A New Global Environment for Learning (ANGEL). All MPH courses are offered through ANGEL, and students accepted to the MPH Program have a username and password which allows them to access ANGEL 24 hours a day.
Question 1

This presentation is designed to help you decide if online learning is right for you. Please answer the first question (by clicking on the answer most relevant for you) to get started.

Do you have regular access to a computer with internet?

Yes
No
If you answered no…

- You may want to postpone enrolling in an online program until you have regular computer and internet access.
- Before enrolling in an online program, you will want to secure access to a computer with internet at least 3-5 times per week. Regular access to a computer through which you can access online courses and materials is one of the most important criteria before enrolling in an online course or program.

Click the icon to go to the next question.
If you answered yes…..

- You may be a good candidate for online learning because online courses require that learners visit their course sites at least 3-5 times per week in order to complete assignments, retrieve course resources, and communicate with instructors and classmates.

Click the icon to proceed to the next question. 🦃
Question 2

Do you know how to:
- Type?
- Copy and paste text?
- Upload, download and attach files?
- Conduct internet research?
- Create and save documents?
- Send and receive e-mails with attachments?
- Navigate to websites using URLs?
- Download and install programs?

Yes
No
If you answered yes…

- You are familiar with the basic tasks required to use a computer with internet. You are likely a good candidate for online learning.

Click the icon to proceed to the next question.
If you answered no.....

- You may still be a good candidate for online learning, but we recommend learning how to complete the tasks listed in the previous slide first. Knowing how to complete these tasks will make your online learning experience much easier.

Click the icon to proceed to the next question.
Question 3

Can you devote 10-15 hours per week for each online course you take?

Yes
No
If you answered no…

- You may want to be cautious about becoming an online learner.
- Learners who plan their study time and develop schedules for completing coursework are more likely to do well in online courses.¹
- The study habits and skills of students determine their success in online classes. Online learning requires at least as much time as traditional, face-to-face classes.²

Click the icon to proceed to the next question.
If you answered yes….

- You may be a good candidate for online learning.
- Students who plan their study time and develop schedules for completing course work are more likely to do well in online courses.¹
- Online learning requires at least as much time as traditional, face-to-face classes.²

Click the icon to proceed to the next question.
Question 4

- Are you comfortable asking instructors for help when necessary?
  
  Yes
  No
If you answered yes…

- You possess one of the most important skills needed to be a successful online learner.
- Students who do well in online courses generally tend to be those who are comfortable contacting the instructor promptly upon realizing that they need help.2

Click the icon to proceed to the next question. ☛
If you answered no….

- You may have a challenging time getting the most out of online learning.
- Students who do well in online courses generally tend to be those who are comfortable contacting the instructor promptly upon realizing that they need help.²

Click the icon to proceed to the next question.
Question 5

- Are you self motivated?

  Yes

  No
If you answered yes….

- You are probably a good candidate for online learning. Students who express determination to complete a course or program usually do.¹

Click the icon to proceed to the next question. 🔄
If you answered no…

- In most online courses and programs, since participation is usually voluntary, a proportion of students who begin programs do not complete them.¹

- Students who express determination to complete a course usually do. On the other hand, students who are unsure about their ability to finish are more likely to drop out.¹

- Before enrolling in an online course or program, you want to ensure that you possess the motivation to complete the course or program.

Click the icon to proceed to the next question. 🔄
Question 6

- Do you have the ability to read and comprehend most material without assistance?

  Yes
  No
If you answered yes….

- You may be a good candidate for online learning.
- Online learning will require you to work from written directions rather than the oral directions commonly presented in traditional, face-to-face classes.²

Click the icon to go to the results.
If you answered no...

- You may want to build your reading comprehension skills prior to enrolling in an online course or program.
- Online learning will require you to work from written directions rather than the oral directions commonly presented in traditional, face-to-face classes.²

Click the icon to proceed to the results.
If your answer to the majority of the questions in this presentation has been yes, it is likely that you will do well in an online course or program. However, if your answer to the majority of the questions has been no, this does not mean that you would not excel in an online course or program. Rather, it means that you may want to prepare yourself in some target areas (e.g., basic computer skills, time management, self-motivation, communication with others, etc.) before enrolling.

If you have any further questions about whether or not the online Master of Public Health Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin is for you, please contact the MPH staff at mph@mcw.edu or 414.456.4510.

To learn more about the online Master of Public Health Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin, go to http://www.mcw.edu/mphprogram.htm
References
