

Because online learning requires the user to interface with the classroom environment using technology, it would only be an option for users who own, or have easy and reliable access to, a computer and internet access. In addition, they would need to be reasonably proficient at using the school's interface software. Questions to ask themselves include: How comfortable am I using a computer? Am I a quick-study when it comes to learning new applications on a computer? Am I capable of managing my time appropriately to keep up with the required reading and weekly assignments? Students considering online learning as an option can contact the school to ask about support and resources available to online students, and they can poll other online learners about their experiences to help them determine if online learning is a viable option for themselves.

Before an online course begins, students will be assessed to make sure they have completed the prerequisite learning the course requires for success in the class just as in on-campus learning experiences. Students will need to self-assess to make sure the computer system they will be using meets the requirements of the online platform the course uses. During the learning experience, the variety of students assessment options include both formative and summative. Formative assessments during online learning experiences are particularly important to students and can be used to assess student understanding and their perceptions of how effective the instruction is (Billings & Halstead, 2023). Students report that discussion boards are an effective way to enhance learning, and they appreciate instructor engagement in the discussion boards (Scott & Turrise, 2021). Frequent discussion board feedback is particularly helpful for online students, and prompt grading of assignments allows students to feel confident they are meeting expectations. Active approaches to online teaching such as problem and case-

based learning can enhance critical thinking, collaboration and practical skills (Mancin et al., 2025). Summative end of course evaluations can be accomplished with a variety of online technologies (Billings & Halstead, 2023). These can include online portfolios, timed exams, and final papers.

References

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