



SEMINOLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTANCE LEARNING DEPARTMENT  
Be yourself. Only better.<sup>SM</sup>

# Successful DL Skills Survey

Is Distance Learning right for you? Answer the questions below and then tally your score

- 1) My need to take this course now is:
  - a) High - I need it immediately for degree, job, or other important reason.
  - b) Moderate - I could take it on campus later or substitute another course.
  - c) Low - It's a personal interest that could be postponed.
  
- 2) Feeling that I am part of a class is:
  - a) Not particularly necessary to me
  - b) Somewhat important to me.
  - c) Very important to me.
  
- 3) I would classify myself as someone who:
  - a) Often gets things done ahead of time.
  - b) Needs reminding to get things done on time.
  - c) Put things off until the last minute.
  
- 4) Classroom discussion is:
  - a) Rarely helpful to me.
  - b) Sometimes helpful to me.
  - c) Almost always helpful to me.
  
- 5) When an instructor hands out directions for an assignment, I prefer:
  - a) Figuring out the instructions myself.
  - b) Trying to follow the directions on my own, then asking for help as needed.
  - c) Having the instructions explained to me.
  
- 6) I need faculty comments on my assignments:
  - a) Within a few weeks, so I can review what I did.
  - b) Within a few days, or I forget what I did.
  - c) Right away, or I get very frustrated.
  
- 7) Considering my professional and personal schedule, the amount of time I have to work on Distance Learning courses is:
  - a) More than enough for a campus class or Distance Learning course.
  - b) The same as for a class on campus.
  - c) Less than for a class on campus.
  
- 8) When I am asked to use VCRs, computers, voice mail, or other technologies new to me:
  - a) I look forward to learning new skills.
  - b) I feel apprehensive, but try it anyway.
  - c) I put it off and try to avoid it.
  
- 9) As a reader, I would classify myself as:
  - a) Good - I usually understand the text without help.
  - b) Average - I sometimes need help to understand the text.
  - c) Slower than average.
  
- 10) If I have to go to the campus to take exams or complete work:
  - a) I can go to campus anytime.
  - b) I may miss some lab assignments or exam deadlines if campus labs are not open evenings and weekends.
  - c) I will have difficulty going to the campus, even in the evenings and on weekends.

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## Scoring

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Add:

- ◆ 3 points for each "a" that you indicated,
- ◆ 2 points for each "b", and
- ◆ 1 point for each "c".

If you scored 23 points or more, a Distance Learning course is a real possibility for you. Regardless of your score, we recommend that you talk to an SCC academic counselor before registering.

If you scored between 15 and 22, Distance Learning courses may work for you, but you may need to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed. We recommend that you talk to an SCC academic counselor before registering.

If you scored 14 or less, Distance Learning courses may not currently be the best alternative for you. We recommend that you talk to an SCC academic counselor before registering.

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## Explanations

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The ten questions in the questionnaire reflect some of the facts about taking Distance Learning courses.

1. Distance Learning students sometimes neglect courses because of personal or professional circumstances, unless they have specific and compelling reasons for taking the course. Procrastination is the most common pitfall in Distance Learning, don't let it happen to you!
2. Some students prefer the independence of Distance Learning courses; others find it uncomfortable.
3. Distance Learning courses offer students greater freedom of scheduling, but they can require more self-discipline than on-campus courses.
4. Some people learn best by interacting with others. Distance Learning courses frequently do not provide much opportunity for this interaction. The individual student must take responsibility for regularly contacting other students and the instructor.
5. Distance Learning courses require more self-direction since face-to-face instructions are sometimes not available.
6. In some Distance Learning classes, if you are using "snail mail", it may take two weeks to get comments back by mail from your instructor.
7. Distance Learning courses require AT LEAST as much dedicated time by the student as on-campus courses. Typically, successful students report spending more time - not less - than for a regularly scheduled class.
8. Distance Learning courses frequently use technology for teaching and communication.
9. Textual materials (either on paper or on the computer) are the primary source of directions and information in Distance Learning courses.
10. Some Distance Learning courses require occasional on-campus work: mandatory orientations, review sessions, exams, labs. Schedule flexibility is therefore important.