Foster Care to Academic Success

The eCowley Online Preparedness Test

Are you ready to take an online class?

For each of the following statements, please select the answer most appropriate for your situation.

Motivation:

1. My need to take this course now is...

a. ☐ High. I need it immediately for a specific goal.

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. Attending classes on campus is..

a. ☐ Extremely difficult for me because of other commitments during times when classes are offered.

b. ☐ Somewhat difficult, but I could make it work.

c. ☐ Not a problem for me.

Motivation Assessment:

Online learning provides a convenient alternative for students whose personal situation may not accommodate a regularly scheduled class in a traditional classroom. Students who have a high need for online courses are typically more motivated to succeed.

Total Your Score for Motivation:
a = 3 points; b = 2 points; c = 1 point
If you scored:
5-6: Your need to take Online and Online Hybrid courses will help you succeed.
3-4: Online courses may be a convenient option for you.
1-2: Online courses are probably more a preference than a need.

Computer Access:

3. My computer situation is best described as...

a. ☐ I have a computer that is fairly new and fast.

b. ☐ My computer is not so new and is sometimes unpredictable.

c. ☐ I don't own a computer; I will use the computers at the college or somewhere else to do my online course work.

Computer Access:

Online courses and Online Hybrid courses require that you have easy access to a reliable computer.
Total Your Score for Learning Style:
a = 3 points; b = 2 points; c = 1 point
If you scored:
3: Your score suggests that your computer is not likely to be detrimental to your success in an Online course or Online Hybrid course.
2: Your score suggests that you might have to upgrade your computer or get a new computer to ensure your success in an online course.
1. If you do not have a reliable computer in your home, we strongly discouraged you from taking Online courses until you are able to purchase a computer. Consider the other eLearning options and traditional courses on campus.

Study Skills:

Study Skills Assessment:

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4. I am someone who...

a. ☐ Easily meets deadlines and turns work in on time.

b. ☐ Tends to wait until the last minute, but completes the task on time.

c. ☐ Frequently turns in assignments late or doesn't complete them.

5. When I need help understanding something..

a. ☐ I am comfortable asking an instructor for clarification.

b. ☐ I am uncomfortable about approaching an instructor for clarification, but do it anyway.

c. ☐ I struggle on my own rather than ask an instructor for clarification.

Online learning requires a great deal of initiative and self-discipline. Ongoing interaction between the individual student and the instructor is integral to the learning process. Also, students must pace themselves to stay on track with assignments.

Total Your Score for Study Skills:

a = 3 points; b = 2 points; c = 1 point

If you scored:

4-6: Your initiative and self-discipline are conducive to success in Online and Online Hybrid courses.

1-3: You may have to become more assertive when it comes to seeking out help and/or become more disciplined in order to be successful in online courses. Perhaps you should take an Online Hybrid course before you try Online courses.

Basic Skills :

Basic Skills Assessment:

6. I consider myself...

a. ☐ Someone who enjoys writing and communicates well in writing.

b. ☐ Someone who is comfortable communicating in writing, but sometimes finds it difficult to express myself.

c. ☐ Someone who does not like to write and finds it difficult to communicate in writing.

7. I consider myself...

a. ☐ Someone who reads and understands the text without help.

b. ☐ Someone who sometimes needs help to understand the text.

c. ☐ Someone who frequently struggles to understand the text.

8. When I am asked to use computers, e-mail, or other technologies that are new to me ...

a. ☐ I look forward to learning new skills.

b. ☐ I feel apprehensive, but try it anyway.

c. ☐ I put it off or try to avoid it.

Online course work requires students to read assignments and write responses. Students who can read comprehensively, write clearly, and use a computer comfortably are more likely to succeed in online courses.

Total Your Score for Basic Skills:

a = 3 points; b = 2 points; c = 1 point

If you scored:

6-9: You have the basic skills to succeed in Online and Online Hybrid courses.

1-5: Your score suggests that courses in reading, writing and computer skills may be necessary before you sign up for online courses.

Talk to your academic advisor to determine which courses could help get you ready for Online and Online Hybrid. Perhaps you should take an Online Hybrid course before you try Online courses.

Learning Style :

Learning Style Assessment:

9. Having face-to-face interaction in a classroom is...

a. ☐ Not particularly important to me.

b. ☐ Somewhat important to me.

c. ☐ Very important to me.

10. When an instructor hands out directions for an

The atmosphere of an online classroom is considerably different from the traditional classroom. Classroom discussion occurs through postings on a discussion board rather than face-to-face. Written instructions are given for assignments with no verbal reinforcement or immediate opportunity for clarification.

Total Your Score for Learning Style:

a = 3 points; b = 2 points; c = 1 point

If you scored:

4-6: Your score suggests that you will adapt well to any online

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assignment, I prefer...

a. ☐   Figuring out the instructions for myself.

b. ☐   Trying to follow the directions by myself and asking for help if needed.

c. ☐   Having the instructions explained to me.

courses offered.

1-3: Your score suggests that you may experience difficulty adapting to a totally online course. You should consider the Online Hybrid courses that blend both online with classroom settings.

Overall Total Score:	
_____	**Motivation**
_____	**Computer Access**
_____	**Study Skills**
_____	**Basic Skills**
_____	**Learning Style**
_____	**OVERALL TOTAL**

Overall Assessment :

Add the Totals to get your Overall Total.
If you scored:
22-30: Online and Online Hybrid are positive options for you.
14-21: Your success in online courses may require adjustments in your study habits and learning preferences.
0-13. Online learning may not be the best option for you at this time.

Courtesy of: http://www.cowley.edu/ecowley/future/ready.html