



How do I know if online learning is for me?

eLearning isn't for everyone. Some students love 100% online learning, some prefer hybrid, and some learn better in the face-to-face classroom (see below for information on each type of class). Many students don't know what works best for them. If you've never taken a distance learning class, try a hybrid course first to see if you enjoy the eLearning environment. If you decide to try a web class, only try one or two the first time out – don't take a full load.

Students who register for distance learning classes without fully understanding the expectations often end up dropping or doing poorly in the classes because they feel overwhelmed. They think classes will be “easier” and won't require as much of a time commitment. See the next page of this document to better understand distance learning expectations and factors that influence online student success.

Student support services – including Library resources, tutoring, writing lab assistance and disability support services - are all available to students taking courses online. However, not all services are available 24/7 and some services may require students to come to campus.

You can find out more about distance learning at BCC by visiting <http://dl.bristolcc.edu> , sending an email to distancelearning@bristolcc.edu or calling (508) 678-2811 x2387.

Types of Distance Learning Classes offered at BCC

Web courses do not physically meet on campus at any time during the semester so students do not need to come to campus for any “class meetings.” All course work is completed 100% online. Most online classes do not have specific days or times when the class meets online. However, all have deadlines and due dates so it is important that students carefully review the syllabus and schedule for each class so they understand the individual course and instructor expectations.

Hybrid courses are a combination of online and face to face instruction. All hybrid courses meet on the days and times specified in the schedule. Each hybrid course is different regarding how many times during the semester it meets. Students should carefully review the meeting days/times to ensure that they are able to attend all required sessions.

Student Option Enrollment courses allow students to take the course as a traditional lecture course, 100% online or as a hybrid course (student creates combination of lecture and Web based instruction in consultation with the instructor). Attendance at the first class meeting is highly encouraged for those students unfamiliar with student option or distance learning.

Unsure if you'll make a good online student?

See the next page for factors that influence online student success...

What you'll need to succeed in the online classroom:

<p>Good communication skills and writing skills</p>	<p>Most distance learning classes are very text-based and require students to clearly communicate in writing with or without Assistive Technology.</p>
<p>Good reading skills</p>	<p>Many online instructors rely heavily on text-based materials so good reading skills are essential.</p>
<p>Good time management skills</p>	<p>Although you do not need to physically come to campus, you still need to set aside equivalent time to learn, study and interact in the online classroom.</p> <p>If you were going to take a 3 credit course you would come to campus for 3 hours a week and would spend an additional 3 hours a week doing reading and homework outside of the classroom. In the online environment, you will spend the same amount of time, at least 6 hours a week per class, but you will need to figure out on your own how to structure your learning.</p>
<p>Self motivated and self-disciplined</p>	<p>You must be able to set your own schedule and be committed to the learning process. It is very easy to “disappear” from the online classroom so you should regularly log on to your course sites and be an active participant in the online classroom.</p>
<p>Awareness of learning style and how it translates in the online environment</p>	<p>Again, most distance learning classes are very text-based. However, many instructors do provide visuals (in the form of PowerPoint presentations or images) that students can view. Some instructors are also including audio and video clips in their online classes – but this is not yet the norm. Students who are visual or verbal learners may find that online learning fits their learning style while kinesthetic or auditory learners may struggle in the 100% online classroom. Students who have a good understanding of how they learn best will be most successful in the online classroom.</p> <p>For more information on learning styles visit: http://www.ncsu.edu/felder-public/ILSdir/styles.htm</p> <p>For a self scoring learning styles survey: http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html</p>
<p>Technology skills</p>	<p>At a minimum students need to have basic computer skills and be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. create and save documents b. manage and organize files and folders c. upload and download files d. download and install programs e. send and receive email (with attachments) f. navigate to web sites using URLs g. perform basic web searches <p>The college provides eLearning orientation sessions to students at the beginning of each term and also has developed an eLearning 101 class that students can complete online. However, these are not substitutes for basic computer literacy skills. If you do not have these skills you should seriously consider taking an introductory computer class prior to enrolling in a distance learning class.</p>