

## College of Marin Distance Education Self-Assessment Survey

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The following survey will assess how successful you may be at a distance education course. It is important to know that one must have access to a reliable Internet connection and computer. Additionally, one must consider their overall unit load when enrolling in a distance education course. Often the time commitment in a distance education course can be greater than a face-to-face course.

You can print out this assessment or list your choices on a separate piece of paper. Take your time and answer questions honestly. Your results will not benefit anyone but you!

1. **My need to take this course now is:**
  - a. High: I need to take it immediately for a specific goal.
  - b. Moderate: I could take it on campus later or substitute another course.
  - c. Low: I could postpone taking it.
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. Puts things off until the last minute or doesn't complete them.
4. **Classroom discussion is:**
  - a. Rarely helpful to me.
  - b. Sometimes helpful to me.
  - c. Almost always helpful to me.

5. **When an instructor gives 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 school, work, family, and personal schedule, the amount of time I have to work on a distance education course is:**
  - a. More than enough for an on-campus course.
  - b. The same as for a class held on campus.
  - c. Less than for a class held on campus.
  
8. **Coming to campus on a regular schedule is:**
  - a. Extremely difficult for me because I have commitments (work, family or personal) during times when classes are offered.
  - b. A little difficult, but I can rearrange my priorities to allow for regular attendance on campus.
  - c. Easy for me.
  
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. Below average –I read very slowly and have trouble understanding on my own.
  
10. **When I need help understanding the subject:**
  - a. I am comfortable asking the instructor for clarification.
  - b. I am uncomfortable asking an instructor, but do it anyway.
  - c. I never admit I don't understand something to an instructor.

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## Explanation of Scoring

3 points are scored for each "a" that you select, 2 for each "b," and 1 for each "c." A score of 20 points or more, indicates that there is a high possibility you would be successful at a distance-learning course. A score between 11 and 20, indicates that a distance-learning courses may work for you, but you may need to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed. A score of 10 or less, strongly suggest that distance learning may not currently be the best alternative for you.

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## General Explanations of Questions

1. Distance-learning students sometimes neglect their courses because of personal or professional circumstances. Having a compelling reason for taking the course helps motivate the student to stick with the course.
2. Some students prefer the independence of Distance Learning; others find the independence uncomfortable and miss being part of the classroom experience.
3. Distance-learning courses give students greater freedom of scheduling, but they can require more self-discipline than on-campus classes.
4. Some people learn best by interacting with other students and instructors. Others learn better by listening, reading and reviewing on their own. Distance-learning courses provide less opportunity for group interaction than most on-campus courses.
5. Distance Learning requires you to work from written directions.
6. It may take more than week to get comments back from your instructor in distance-learning classes.
7. Distance Learning requires at least as much time as on-campus courses. Students surveyed say that distance-learning courses are as hard or harder than on campus courses.
8. Most people who are successful with Distance Learning find it difficult to come to campus on a regular basis because of their work, family or personal schedules.
9. Print materials are the primary source of directions and information in distance-learning courses.
10. Students who do well in distance-learning courses are usually comfortable contacting the instructor as soon as they need help with the course.