Characteristics of a Successful Online Learner

Self-motivated

Students can direct their own learning environment and methods to fulfill course requirements and achieve individual academic success. Good online students can develop techniques to stay involved and interested in their online course.

Independent Learner

The online environment offers students more flexibility. Online courses are not an easy way out, though. You will have the same amount of work as you do in a traditional course, but you have the option to log in and work 24/7.

Computer Literate

Although it is not necessary to have advanced computer skills, students should possess a working knowledge of e-mail, the Internet, as well as basic keyboarding skills. Successful online learners have easy access to computers and the Internet. Even if you have a computer at school, you will be more successful if you have additional access elsewhere.

Good Time Manager

Students must be able to organize and plan their own best ‘time to learn.’ There is no one best time for everyone, but the key to learning is to make the time to learn.

Effective Communicator

Students must use e-mail and discussion forums to communicate with their instructors. The ability to write clearly to communicate ideas and assignments is essential. This method provides the learner with rapid feedback as well as a means to inform instructors of any concerns or problems that they may be experiencing. In addition, a good online student will ask for help when there is a problem. For instance, if your password does not work, ask for help immediately. Do not wait for two or three days. It might take a day to fix the problem, and you cannot miss a week of work in your online course.

Personal Commitment

Students must have a strong desire to learn and achieve knowledge and skills via online courses. Making a commitment to learn in this manner is a very personal decision and requires a strong commitment to perform in order to achieve academic success. Remember that an online course is much like a traditional course at school. You will receive a grade at the end of the course that will go on your transcript.