

SPAHP Online Learning Readiness Assessment

Assess the basic skills necessary for success in an online or technology-rich learning environment by completing the SPAHP Online Learning Readiness Assessment. Each question is assigned points based upon your answer. You should answer each statement honestly for accurate results. Total your points and use the scale at the end of the quiz to determine your readiness level. This assessment is intended to give you an idea of your strengths in the different components.

Learning Online	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree or Not Sure
I expect to spend more time in an online course than I would if I were taking a face-to-face or on-campus course.	3	2	1
I understand that online courses are not self-paced (i.e., I will have assignments and deadlines I will need to meet.)	3	2	1
I have a place to work on course work without distractions.	3	2	1
I have a compelling reason for wanting to take courses online.	3	2	1
I realize that taking an online course can involve various types of activities including participating in discussion boards, group projects, watching videos, interacting with the instructor and other students, readings, presentations and required online sessions.	3	2	1
I am confident in my academic abilities to achieve my goals in an online learning environment.	3	2	1

Compare your total score for this section to the scale.

Time Management	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree or Not Sure
I am good at managing my time.	3	2	1
I always get my work done on time.	3	2	1
I have a weekly schedule so that I am aware of tasks and deadlines I need to meet/accomplish.	3	2	1
I will be able to devote 2 to 3 hours per week for <u>each</u> credit hour to my online courses. (Example: For 12 credit hours you should expect to spend 24-36 hours each week on school work which is equivalent to the time required for a typical job.)	3	2	1
I am a self-starter and can accomplish tasks without frequent reminders.	3	2	1

Compare your total score for this section to the scale.

Communication and Support	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree or Not Sure
I am comfortable using email.	3	2	1
It is easy for me to ask for help either from my instructor or other classmates.	3	2	1
I am willing to interact with my online classmates in a collaborative learning environment.	3	2	1
I have the support of family and friends to pursue my educational goals.	3	2	1
I am comfortable expressing my opinions and thoughts in writing online.	3	2	1

Compare your total score for this section to the scale.

Technology	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree or Not Sure
My paid Internet connection is fast and reliable, such as a cable modem or DSL.	3	2	1
I feel at ease using the computer (downloading and uploading files, using Microsoft Office products – Word, etc.)	3	2	1
I know how to manage documents and files on my computer.	3	2	1
I am comfortable using the Internet to find information, including online library resources.	3	2	1
I am comfortable using a computer to take exams online.	3	2	1
I have resources to assist me with computer problems.	3	2	1
I am knowledgeable of basic, routine computer maintenance.	3	2	1

Compare your total score for this section to the scale.

Results/Feedback Scales: Compare your scores.

Learning Online

6 – 11 Points

It looks like you need to explore your readiness for online learning a little further. It is important to know that taking courses online involves just as much work (sometimes more) as taking courses in a physical classroom. While online learning offers flexibility and convenience, you will have weekly requirements (such as assignments, readings, and participation in discussion boards). Having a dedicated place to work without distractions can help you concentrate and achieve your goals.

12 – 18 Points

It looks like you are ready for the online learning environment. It is important to know that taking courses online involves just as much work as taking courses in a physical classroom. While online learning offers flexibility and convenience, you will have weekly requirements (such as assignments, readings, and participation in discussion boards). Having a dedicated place to work without distractions can help you concentrate and achieve your goals.

Time Management

5 – 11 Points

Being able to manage your time is crucial for doing well in your online courses. From your answers, it looks like you could benefit from developing a strategy for managing your weekly assignments and tasks. Finding the time to read the materials and complete assignments is very important. Disciplining yourself to log into your course daily and complete assignments may seem challenging, but is necessary if you want to do well. For instance, allocate a certain amount of time each week for each task. Succeeding in the online learning environment is closely related to your ability to manage your time – think about ways that you can maximize your schedule so you use your time efficiently and productively.

12 – 15 Points

Your responses indicate that you manage your time pretty well. Being organized and having good time management is crucial for doing well in your online courses. Finding the time to read the materials and complete assignments is very important. Disciplining yourself to log into your course daily and complete assignments may seem challenging, but is necessary if you want to do well. Know the course expectations and plan accordingly. Succeeding in the online learning environment is closely related to your ability to manage your time – and it looks like you are well on your way.

Communication and Support

5 – 11 Points

You may want to look at your ability to communicate by expressing your thoughts in writing. In an online course, being able to communicate online is extremely important. Much of the online course involves communicating with your instructor and classmates in writing. This can take the form of chats, emailing, posting on discussion boards and written assignments. You should also feel comfortable in asking your instructor or classmates for help if you have questions. It is also very important to have the support of family and/or friends. In addition, be aware of different resources that may be available to help you communicate and feel connected such as community spaces, portfolios, office hours, question/answer sessions, etc.

12 – 15 Points

Communicating by email and expressing your thoughts in writing is extremely important in the online learning environment. From your answers, you indicate that you are comfortable in doing this. Much of the online course involves communicating with your instructor and classmates in writing. This can take the form of chats, emailing, posting on discussion boards and written assignments. Being able to ask the instructor or classmates for help has been linked to academic success. It's also a good idea to have the support of family and/or friends. In addition, be aware of different resources that may be available to help you communicate and feel connected such as community spaces, portfolios, office hours, question/answer sessions, etc.

Technology

7 – 13 Points

Having a robust Internet connection is critical for taking online courses. You may want to evaluate your technology skills to ensure you are able to perform the necessary tasks in the online learning environment; for instance, the ability to search the Internet, use a computer, and download/upload files is very important.

14 – 21 Points

You seem pretty comfortable with technology, so you shouldn't have problems interacting in the online course environment. Making sure that you have a robust Internet connection is critical for taking online courses. Being able to effectively use a computer and the ability to search the Internet to find pertinent information has been shown to correlate with academic success.

Please see the following links for assistance in any of the above areas.

Technology:

- <http://www.speedtest.net> - test your network speed. The minimum speed for success in SPAHP online courses is 3.0 Mbps. Speedtest will let you know your connectivity level as minimal standards are required.
- <http://spahp.creighton.edu/departments-offices/elearning-and-academic-technologies> - a list of all eLearning and Academic Technologies provided and supported by the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.
- <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers> - GCF (Goodwill Community Foundation) LearnFree.org. Be sure to check out their Tech Savvy Tips and Tricks and the Information Savvy sections in addition to the many other sources of Computer information and tutorials from word processing to emails, discussion posts, and blogs.

Communication Skills (writing, presentations, etc.):

- <http://www.mindtools.com/CommSkill/WritingSkills.htm> - Written Communication Skills
- <http://www.mindtools.com/page8.html> - Communication Skills
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> - Purdue Online Writing Lab

Keyboarding/Typing Skills:

- <http://www.typingweb.com/> - You will need to create a login name and password, but does not require an email.
- <http://www.freotypinggame.net/> - Typing games, lessons, and typing tests

Time Management Skills for Online Students:

- <http://spahp.creighton.edu/departments-offices/academic-and-student-affairs/academic-support> - a list of all Academic Support Services provided and supported by the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.
- <http://www.elearners.com/online-education-resources/online-learning/time-management-for-online-learners/> - time management skills for online learners