

## ARE ONLINE COURSES RIGHT FOR ME?

ANSWER YES OR NO TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

### Technology

- Yes  No | I have access to a computer with an Internet connection.
- Yes  No | I know what a web browser is.
- Yes  No | I am comfortable with sending email, uploading & downloading files, using a search engine, and browsing websites.
- Yes  No | I have good computer skills including keyboarding, copying, pasting, and saving documents.
- Yes  No | I can usually figure out new technology on my own; if I can't, I get help.

### Skills

- Yes  No | I am a self-motivated or self-disciplined individual.
- Yes  No | I am an average or better reader.
- Yes  No | I am able to learn and understand concepts by reading or viewing it on my own.
- Yes  No | I am comfortable communicating my ideas in writing.
- Yes  No | I am good at prioritizing tasks and completing assignments on time --without a lot of reminders.

### Learning Style/Life Style

- Yes  No | My schedule allows me approximately 7-11 hours per week to spend on each online class.
- Yes  No | I do not require the face-to-face interaction with my instructor and classmates to feel part of a community of learners.
- Yes  No | I understand that I may not get immediate answers or feedback to questions and I am comfortable working independently.
- Yes  No | I know how to take responsibility for getting help from my instructor or classmates when I have trouble understanding a topic or an assignment.
- Yes  No | I understand that online courses are just as academically rigorous as traditional face-to-face courses and I will have to work to succeed.

## CHECK YOUR READINESS:

**13—15 “yes” answers:** *Yes*, you are an excellent fit for online courses. Your computer skills and proficiency, as well as your learning style and understanding of online educational strategies will help you be successful in an online learning environment.

**9-12 “yes” answers:** *Yes*, your computer skills, lifestyle, and knowledge are a good fit for online courses. You may need to make a few adjustments in a few areas (depending on your “no” answers), but you can easily be successful in an online class if you’re determined.

**5—8 “yes” answers:** *Maybe*, you could be a good match for distance learning, but you should be aware that online course work requires a high level of computer skills, written communication, and self-motivation.

Review your “no” answers in each section and find your weakness. If your deficiency is in Computer Technology or Skills--Consider taking a course or two to brush up on skills before you register for an online course. NICC offers a *Computer Literacy* course (face-to-face, web-enhanced) or *Introduction to Microcomputer* course (online) and *Foundations of Writing & Communication through Reading & Writing* courses, on-campus.

If your deficiencies are in Learning Styles or Life Styles—Consider taking a hybrid course first or rearranging your schedule to make more time for studying or finding resources to help you. An advisor can help you modify your direction or change your academic plan.

**0—4 “yes” answers:** *No*, you should reconsider taking online courses at this time, as distance learning may not be the most effective way for you to learn. You may try taking developmental courses in Computer Technology, Reading, Writing, and Time Management at NICC, and then try a web-enhanced course or hybrid class first. Hybrid courses will allow you to become familiar with online learning with the face-to-face guidance of an instructor.