

Questions to Ponder

Before Beginning the Math 1010 Online Course

Online courses can offer tremendous opportunities, but online learning is not for everyone. If you have the right qualities to be a successful online student, you will probably find it to be very convenient and rewarding alternative to traditional classroom learning. So, how do you know if you have the right qualities? Ask yourself the following 10 questions:

1. Did I do well in my last mathematics course?

You should have earned an A or a B in your previous mathematics course and have taken that course within the past year. In that course, you should have been able to understand without extra help.

2. Am I comfortable using a computer, the internet, and email?

You don't have to be a computer expert by any means, but you should have a good working knowledge of computers and certain programs such as a blackboard, a word processor, email, and a web browser.

3. Do I have reliable access to the Internet?

All the computer knowledge in the world won't help you succeed in online courses if you can't count on your Internet connection. And since connections can fail at any time, be sure to have a back-up plan as well.

4. Do I frequently check my email and do I know how to open and attach files to an email?

Email will be the main source of communication in this class. You need to frequently check your email. You also need to know how to open email attachments and attach files (homework) to your email.

5. Do I have the time and energy to commit to online courses?

Don't be fooled into thinking that online courses take less time and energy than traditional courses on campus, you'll save time on travel and in the classroom, but you'll also be spending a lot more time online. You should plan on spending at least 15 to 20 hours per week as a minimum on this course.

6. Do I manage time effectively and do I meet deadlines?

Taking online courses mean that you decide when you will read and learn materials, participate in discussions, and study; you must be able to plan your schedule on your own taking into account all of your obligations. You need to be aware of deadlines and you must be able to meet those deadlines.

7. Am I comfortable asking for help and more information from instructors and peers?

Chances are that throughout your online courses, you will come across material that is difficult to understand. You may need to contact your instructor and/or peers on a regular basis, so you should be comfortable doing so.

8. Am I a strong reader and enjoy reading text-based learning?

Although online courses often include visual components as well, for the most part you will be learning through reading texts, materials, and email discussions.

9. Do I have self-discipline and motivation?

While some people need teachers to keep them motivated and on-task, online learners are must be able to motivate themselves. This arrangement can make it possible for you to do your class work when it's most convenient for you. However, with this increased freedom and flexibility comes responsibility. Without the structure of regular class meetings, it will be up to you to pace yourself and keep up with the assignments.

10. Am I driven and capable of pushing myself to succeed?

Your success in online courses is almost entirely up to you and your desire to learn, so you need to know how to push yourself to do your very best without having an instructor or fellow students in your face to offer motivation.

If you answered “**NO**” to any of the above ten questions, you should reassess your readiness for this online course.

If you are ready to begin this online course,
click on the Welcome Letter located in
Canvas or online at

http://www.snow.edu/cindy/1010_online/index.html to get Started.