



## Student Readiness Survey

### Am I Ready to Take an Online Class?

At Northern Star Online (NSO), we believe that all students can learn, but that online classes are not necessarily the most appropriate learning environments for all students. The following survey will help you to assess whether or not online learning is for you.

We ask you to complete the Student Readiness Survey checklist below with your parent or guardian. Ask yourself the following questions and check those that you would answer "yes" to. **Be honest with yourself.** Your answers on this form will not be used solely to qualify or disqualify you for registration in an online class. They are primarily used to raise your own awareness of what will be expected of you, and to let us know that you have considered these issues before beginning your class.

After you have completed the Student Readiness Survey with your parent or guardian, please check off the box on the Enrollment form indicating you have completed the survey. Checking off the survey box on the Enrollment Form demonstrates that you have given thought to what is best for you. If you have any concerns about your decision to take an online class, please feel free to contact Terri Osland (763-550-7286) NSO Counselor, to discuss any questions or concerns that might come up as the result of completing this questionnaire, or e-mail her at [counselor@northernstaronline.org](mailto:counselor@northernstaronline.org).

Thank you!

# Motivation and Attitude

To be successful in an online class, you must recognize that you are the primary person responsible for your own success and act accordingly when setting priorities and making decisions. You will need to be motivated and able to work independently. You must realize that an online class is not easier than the traditional course equivalent. Also, think about how much you really need to take this class. Are you unable to successfully complete this class in the traditional classroom and are looking for a different way to achieve the course credits, or are you just interested in a unique experience? If you really need the class, you may be more motivated to succeed.

- Would you, or those around you, describe you as a self-motivated person?
- Do you feel like you can stay on-task when doing schoolwork at home?
- Do you stay focused when using the Internet for learning?
- Are you comfortable with little or no face-to-face interaction with your teacher?
- Are you a person that does not depend on others to remind you of due dates for assignments?
- Do you understand that an online class can be just as challenging as the same course offered on-site?
- Does your personal schedule make it difficult for you to take classes during the day?
- Is your need to take an online class very high?

# Support

To be successful in an online class you should feel comfortable asking for support from your parents/guardians and others around you when you need it. It is also very important to set up a regular time and place to focus on your course work and then stick to your schedule.

- Do you have someone at school or home to help you, if you have technical problems?
- Do you have a place in your home (with a computer) that is free of distractions?
- Are your parents/guardians supportive of you taking an online class?
- Will other members of your family understand that you might tie up the phone line (if you have a dial-up modem connection to the Internet) while working on your class?

# Technical Skills

Your online class will require you to be comfortable using an e-mail program, Internet browser, and a word processor. You will need to install and configure some software for your class chat room, and there may be other software or hardware that needs to be installed for your class. If you are not currently comfortable doing these things, then you must have a willingness to learn how to do them and be ready to put in a little extra effort to increase your own technical skills.

- Do you know how to connect to the Internet from your home computer?
- Do you know how to use a URL (web address) to find a specific website?
- Can you cut and paste text in a word processor, and from one application to another?
- Are you comfortable using e-mail to communicate with others?

- Do you know how to use Internet applications such Internet Explorer, chat rooms, and discussion boards?
- Do you know how to do Internet research using search engines (Google, Yahoo, Excite, etc...)
- Does the computer you will use for the online class have both a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word, Appleworks) and an Internet browser (e.g., Netscape, Internet Explorer) installed?
- Are you comfortable using the keyboard and have good typing skills?
- Do you look forward to learning new technology skills?

## Academic Preparedness and Learning Style

There are no specific characteristics or personalities that can be used to predict if a student will be successful in the online environment. However, in an online class, you will probably need to read and write more than you do in a traditional class, and you will also need to be an independent worker who enjoys problem solving. You should also consider whether or not you have completed necessary prerequisites for the class.

- Do you enjoy reading and writing?
- When an instructor hands out directions for an assignment, do you like to figure things out on your own?
- Are you someone who can work at a project without putting everything off until the last minute?
- Can you organize your time so that you have regular work periods to complete online assignments?
- Do you ask teachers for help if you need it?
- Have you checked to be sure you have completed any necessary prerequisites for this class?

Checking the survey box on the Enrollment Form indicates that you agree to the following statement:

"I have completed the survey and shared this information with my parent/guardian. I believe that I am a strong candidate for online learning. I also understand that Northern Star Online is not responsible for supervising my activities while working on course requirements, and that NSO is not liable for hardware and/or software conflicts, or data loss that may occur on my home computer system while I am taking an online class through NSO."

**PARENTS:** Your involvement can play a big part in helping your student achieve success in their online courses. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to take an active role in learning about the activities that will be required for course completion. Course Instructors will welcome contact with you and be happy to discuss your student's progress in their courses. Please feel free to visit the NSO website for more Parent Information or contact Terri Osland, NSO Counselor, (763-550-7286) or e-mail [counselor@northernstaronline.org](mailto:counselor@northernstaronline.org).