UC Merced Online Learning Readiness Questionnaire

Before enrolling in an UC Merced course that utilizes remote instruction (aka an online course), it might be useful to first assess your readiness for successfully navigating a remote instruction learning environment. Your answers to the following questions will help you determine what you need to do to be a successful UC Merced online learner.

**Instructions:** Choose either “agree”, “sometimes”, or “disagree” as a response to each statement. If you have a significant number of “sometimes” or “disagree” in a particular section, follow the links under suggested improvement for that section to access help UC Merced learning resources.

**Self-Direction Questions:**
- I am good at setting goals and deadlines for myself.
- I understand that being a student in an online course is different than being a student in an in-person course.
- I finish the projects I start.
- I do not quit just because things get difficult.
- I can keep myself on track and on time.

*Suggestions for self-direction improvement:* Many successful UC Merced students set strong academic goals and commit to obtaining them. If you need to improve your time management skills and study habits (such as keeping yourself on track, meeting deadlines, and working independently) please contact the Calvin E. Bright Success Center for more information.

**Learning Preferences Questions:**
- I can learn from things I see, like videos of lectures, PowerPoint presentations, or visual notes.
- I can learn from things I hear, like lectures, audio recordings, or podcasts.
- I can learn from things I read, like textbooks, transcripts, or syllabi.
- I have developed good ways to solve problems I run into.
- I can learn equally well in a group or on my own.
- I am willing to send e-mail to or have discussions with people I might never see.

*Suggestions for learning preferences improvement:* Many successful UC Merced students are proficient in using different types of media, such as audio, to learn in an online course. There will also be times where you will need to rely on yourself to solve minor problems or make decisions about your learning. You may be asked to work in an online group which will require good communication skills. UC Merced has developed an Educational Continuity website and several Academic Support services (see Study Habits section below) to help you in this endeavor.

**Study Habits Questions:**
- I usually find a place to study I can read and work on assignments without major distractions.
- I can ignore minor distractions around me when I study.
- I am willing to spend 10-15 hours each week on every online course I am enrolled in.
- I keep a record of what my assignments are and when they are due.
• I plan my work in advance so that I can turn in my assignments on time.
• When I study, people around me will help me work and not try to distract me.
• I am willing to use e-mail and other online tools to ask my classmates and instructors questions.

Suggestions for study habits improvement: Many successful UC Merced students do their best to find a study area compatible with their study habits, and plan on treating their education like a full-time job. A typical online course requires at least 10 hours a week of work. Most students devise a way to keep track of their assignments and due dates so they can plan their academic work. The most successful UC Merced student are willing to reach out to their instructor and fellow classmates when they have questions. There are also several Academic Support services available to help you in your academic pursuits: University Writing Center, Math Center, Chem Center, STEM Resource Center, and Peer Assisted Learning Support.

Technology Skills Questions:
• I am fairly good at using the computer for my academics.
• I am comfortable surfing the Internet.
• I am comfortable conducting searches, setting bookmarks, and downloading files.
• I am comfortable installing software and changing configuration settings on my computer.
• I know someone who can help me if I have computer problems.

Suggestions for technology skills improvement: Many successful UC Merced students have someone they can ask technology questions of; someone who serves as their technology support peer. Ideally, you should work to acquire the following skills: using the Internet and a Web browser to perform searches, the ability to install software on your computer, and the ability to perform simple troubleshooting activities. If there is a question that you and your technology support peer cannot answer, you can contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk.

Computer Equipment Questions:
• My computer runs reliably on a Windows or Mac Operating System.
• I have a reliable way to be connected to the Internet.
• I have headphones or speakers and a microphone to use if a class has a videoconference.
• My computer is equipped with a camera to use if a class has a videoconference.

Suggestions for computer equipment improvement: Many successful UC Merced students have access to a computer equipped with a modern, up-to-date operating system, an up-to-date browser, video capabilities, a fairly fast connection to the Internet, virus protection, and headphones with a microphone. If you do not have access to such a computer, please contact the UC Merced Division of Undergraduate Education Technology Services.