

## Is a Web-based Class for Me?

How well would a web-based course or courses fit your needs and lifestyle? Pick one answer for each question listed below. Score as directed following question number 10.

1. My need to take this course now is:
  - a. High—I need it immediately, based on my call, my job, for a degree or another important reason.
  - b. Moderate—I could take it on campus, or at a later time or substitute another course.
  - c. Low—personal interest that could be postponed.
  
2. Feeling that I am part of a class is:
  - a. Not particularly necessary to me.
  - b. Somewhat important to me.
  - c. Very important to me.
  
3. I would classify myself as someone who:
  - a. Often gets things done ahead of time.
  - b. Needs reminding to get things done on time.
  - c. Puts things off until the last minute.
  
4. Classroom discussion is:
  - a. Rarely helpful to me.
  - b. Sometimes helpful to me.
  - c. Almost always helpful to me.
  
5. When an instructor hands out directions for an assignment, I prefer:
  - a. Figuring out the instructions myself.
  - b. Trying to follow the directions on my own, then asking for help as needed.
  - c. Having instructions explained to me.
  
6. I need faculty comments on my assignments:
  - a. Within a few weeks, so I can review what I did.
  - b. Within a few days or I forget what I did.
  - c. Right away or I get very frustrated.
  
7. Considering my professional and personal schedule, the amount of time I can work on a web-based course is:
  - a. More than enough for a campus class or web-based course.
  - b. The same as for a class on campus.
  - c. Less than for a class on campus.

8. When I am asked to use computers, voice mail or other technologies new to me:
  - a. I look forward to learning new skills.
  - b. I feel apprehensive, but try it anyway.
  - c. I put it off and try to avoid it.
  
9. As a reader, I would classify myself as:
  - a. Good—I usually understand the text without help.
  - b. Average—I sometimes need help to understand the text.
  - c. Slower than average.
  
10. If I had to go to the campus to do work:
  - a. I will have difficulty going to the campus
  - b. It is possible to go to the campus, but inconvenient.
  - c. I could go to the campus anytime.

## **Scoring**

### **Add**

- 3 points for each “a” that you indicated,
- 2 points for each “b” indicated, and
- Minus 1 (-1) for each “c.”

If you scored 23 or over, a web-based course is a real possibility for you.

If you scored between 15 and 22, web-based courses may work for you, but you may need to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed.

If you scored 14 or less, a web-based course may not currently be the best alternative for you; Give the distance education office at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College a call to discuss your options.

## **Explanations**

The ten questions in the questionnaire reflect some of the facts about taking web-based courses.

1. Web-based students sometimes can end up neglecting courses because of personal or professional circumstances, unless they have specific and compelling reasons for taking the course. Procrastination causes the downfall of many students.
2. Some students prefer the independence of web-based courses; others find it uncomfortable.
3. Web-based courses give students greater freedom of scheduling, but they can require more self-discipline than on-campus courses.
4. Some people learn best by interacting with other students and instructors. However, web-based courses do not provide for the same kind of interaction. The individual student must take responsibility for regularly contacting other students and the instructor. This may be facilitated by the use of computer-based bulletin boards and e-mail, but the responsibility for regularly checking these systems rests on the student.
5. Web-based courses require you to work from written directions without face-to-face instructions.
6. In some web-based and distance learning classes, if you are using 'snail mail' it may take two weeks to get comments back by mail from your instructor.
7. Web-based courses require AT LEAST as much time to be dedicated by the student as on-campus courses. Typically successful students report having spent more time—not less—than for a regular on-campus class.
8. Web-based courses use technology for teaching and communicating.
9. Textual materials are the primary sources of directions and information in web-based courses.
10. Student flexibility is important.

### **Successful distance education students are...**

- Self-disciplined and goal oriented
- Self-motivated
- Organized
- Able to meet deadlines without direction from others
- Good readers and comprehend well
- Able to follow directions

### **Successful distance education students know how to...**

- Work independently of others
- Manage their time
- Prepare for, study for and complete assigned work independently
- Take notes well, whether from “online” materials, textbooks or broadcasts

### **Successful distance education students...**

- Don't mind telephoning or e-mailing their instructors with questions or concerns over a course
- Realize that immediate feedback from instructors is not always possible
- Are very capable of independent learning
- Know that they themselves ultimately are responsible for their own education

### **Successful distance education students DO NOT...**

- Put things off until tomorrow
- Give up easily, even when the going gets tough