



## **ONLINE LEARNING... ARE YOU READY?**

**If you desire greater flexibility for learning, then online, hybrid, or open learning lab courses MAY be a good choice...**

**To determine YOUR fit follow these steps:**

1. Review the flexible course definitions on back.
2. Complete the ARE YOU READY checklist below.
3. Identify your readiness.
4. Talk to your advisor or visit the Flexible Learning Options Office, 134 Osterlin.

### **“ARE YOU READY?” Checklist**

- Are you self-disciplined and a highly motivated learner?
- Are you willing to work on your own without immediate feedback?
- Do you enjoy reading, writing, and communicating online?
- Do you manage your time well?
- Are you a competent computer user capable of finding your way around new applications and websites easily?

**If you checked all the above, continue on...**

**If not, you will likely struggle with these type of classes. It is recommended to stay with traditional, face-to-face learning.**

- Do you have a place, free of interruptions, to work at least 3 times per week? Can you dedicate 3-4 hours per class contact hour each week? For example, you will need to schedule 9-12 hours/week for one 3-contact hour class.
- Do you have a reliable Internet connection for course access, communication with the instructor or classmates, and assignment submissions?

**If you checked both the above, continue on to determine your fit for online and hybrid classes.**

**If not, you will likely struggle with these type of classes. It is recommended to stay with traditional, face-to-face learning.**

- Do you enjoy having the face-to-face interaction as well as the online flexibility? Do you prefer to meet periodically in-person with your instructor and classmates?

**If you checked the above, you are a candidate for hybrid classes. If you are comfortable without the in-person interaction, online learning is likely a good fit for you.**

**Still unsure? Other questions? Visit the Online Learning website and talk to your academic advisor before signing up for an online class: [www.nmc.edu/online](http://www.nmc.edu/online)**



**Northwestern  
Michigan  
College**

## NMC Flexible Course Definitions

**Online courses** are delivered over the Internet, either entirely online or with limited testing/on-campus requirements.

Online learning provides:

- Greater flexibility and convenience in scheduling time
- Timelines for coursework completion; **they are not self-paced**
- Travel time and cost savings: you decide when and where to learn
- Additional time to reflect before responding to discussions and other activities

It fits learners who are:

- Self-directed
- Effective time managers
- Able to access to a computer with reliable Internet several times during a week
- Computer-savvy and competent working with a variety of computer applications; navigating email; and saving, copying, and opening documents
- Willing to problem-solve independently



**Hybrid courses** blend the traditional, on-campus, classroom with the online environment. The on-campus time is significantly reduced, providing greater schedule flexibility. Hybrid courses offer the best of both learning environments.

Hybrid Learning offers the benefits of on-campus learning including:

- In-person, social interaction
- Immediate feedback
- Hands-on learning
- Scheduled meetings

Plus, the benefits of online learning including:

- Reduction in scheduled, on-campus meetings
- Less travel time and related costs
- Flexibility and convenience in scheduling your time for classwork
- Time to reflect before responding to discussions and other course activities