

## **Are you considering taking an online class at Harbor College?**

You can check on your readiness for the special requirements for success in an online environment. Since you have found this page, you probably have some facility with computers and browsers like Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari. You probably already have an email account and know the basics of getting around on the computer screen with a mouse or keyboard commands. To really succeed in an online course, however, you should also be comfortable with a word processing program like Word and know how to save and upload files.

Of course, those are just the technical skills that you'll need for an online course. In addition to those, you really will need some other skills as well. You need to be self-motivating; you will not have the teacher meeting with you in a class every week to remind you of assignments due. You will be responsible for that yourself. If you are not a "self-starter," taking an online class will be a lot more difficult. You will also need to be a good reader and like figuring out directions and activities on your own. Online teachers will certainly be available, but not perhaps as readily as in a face-to-face environment.

Please click on this link to survey your readiness for working in an online course.

### [Mira Costa's Test Your Potential as an Online Student](#)

Taking an online class can be a very rewarding experience if you have the right skills and preparation. You can adjust your activities to fit your schedule even at 2:00 o'clock in the morning; you can be more reasoned in your responses to questions because discussions are carried out asynchronously; you can take the class without ever leaving home or take it with you on the road. If these seem attractive to you and you have the requisite skills and competencies, go ahead and sign up for an online class. If you want to "get your feet wet" gradually, try a hybrid course or a Web-enhanced course first.