

Is an online Math Class Right for you?

There are students who flourish in online-math classes. The flexible format works well for them and they feel they get more personal attention (over e-mail and/or in office hours) than in a traditional lecture-style course. There are also students who do poorly who might have done better in traditional courses.

Characteristics of students who do well in online classes

Self-disciplined – make time in the week for watching lectures, reading the text book, doing homework and practice problems, taking quizzes.

Organized – keep track of deadlines, schedule and show up for exams, start assignments early so there is time to post questions and get feedback.

Motivated – participate in online discussion, e-mail instructor questions and/or attend office hours.

Learn through reading/writing – different students have different learning styles; some learn really well by reading; others do not and learn better with face-to-face interaction. The online courses do have video content, but reading the textbook, e-mails, discussion posts, etc. is really important; being able to express math thoughts in writing (in an e-mail or discussion post) is also essential.

Have reliable, frequent access to the internet – check the course web page, check the course page on Canvas, watch video lectures, participate in online discussions, do online homework and take online quizzes.

Patient and detail-oriented – figure out the idiosyncrasies of HOW to enter the answers on online quizzes and homework.

Successful students are usually busy people who still prioritize their math class. (They juggle many classes, jobs, parenting, athletics, and more!)

Failing students are usually busy people who are not able to spend enough time on the material (how much is enough depends on the person) and/or do not learn very well with the online format.

A few more things to consider...

Taking part in this course will take approximately 12-15 hours per week of your time (for some students, more). You will read the material, watch the lectures while working along with the instructor, and work problems from the book. You will be quizzed weekly and have online homework.

70% of your grade is through proctored exams. You must arrange to come to the testing center at the University of Utah or coordinate a proctor through them. The exams are paper-based and similar to those given in a traditional course.