



Factors that make a difference in distance learning course success

Your successful completion of an online course involves being well prepared. Be knowledgeable of the following six main factors that influence your level of success. If you feel that you need to improve in any area prior to taking an online course, several online resources exist.

A few sites may charge a fee. Some locations may move or change over time. To find more or different information beyond these sites, do your own web search.

- **Learning Styles** - Determine your learning preference and how to improve it, assessments and advice.

<http://www.bucks.edu/student/perkins/learn/yourlearningstyleprofile/>

<http://success.oregonstate.edu/learning-styles>

- **Reading Recall** - Tips to improve your reading recall.

<http://www.happenstance.net/how-to-improve-your-reading-recall>

- **Technical Competency** - Computer and internet competency involves your awareness of the type of operating system you have, location of files, uploading, etc.

<http://www.comptechdoc.org/basic/basicut/index.html>

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com>

- **Typing Speed/Accuracy** - <http://www.powertyping.com/>

- **Personal Attributes**

Academic - past academic grades

Support seeking - asking for help as soon as there is a question

Procrastination - putting off assignments or working ahead

Persistence - your likelihood to finish what you begin

Locus of Control - a measure of the degree to which you feel that you are in control of what happens to you.

- **Life Factors**

Time - How do you find time to study and to complete assignments?

<http://www.fastweb.com/student-life/articles/392-the-challenge-finding-time-to-study>

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/augustine/study/schedule.html>

<http://www.harperdoit.net/dlo/DLOwebsite/learnstyle.htm>

How much time do you need? -

<http://www.harperdoit.net/dlo/DLOwebsite/lostudy.htm>

Place to Study - Create a good study spot

<http://www.bucks.edu/~specpop/frame-ls-7.htm>

<http://distancelearn.about.com/odmanagingyourwork/a/studyspot.htm>

Resources - Do you know how to access all the resources available through Terra's online library links?

<http://academic.knowitnow.org/>

Call 419-559-2318 for assistance.

Skills - How successful have you been in the past with school coursework? Do you know what your needs are, such as tutoring, writing support, etc? Did you take action to find and to use those services to assist you? Are you ready to use www.etutoring.org, offered by Terra, to assist you in your online course as needed? Call 419-559-2108 for more information.