

Student Online Readiness Self-Assessment: Your Custom Feedback

Based on your selections during the survey, here are some recommendations. Please pay careful attention to them, especially *those marked in bold text*. You may wish to print this entire page (CTRL + P or right-click and print) and/or save it as a PDF for your and/or your instructor's records. If you forget to save your results, you can always take the survey again! For additional info on saving as a PDF, right-click / open [this page from How to Geek](#) in a new tab/window (clicking directly on the link will cause you to lose your results).

1. You answered "yes" to indicate that you understand that online learning is different from traditional classroom learning and requires an equal or greater amount of work. It sounds like you know that online classes at UHD are not the "easy" way out! In fact, in many ways, as you probably already know, they are more rigorous than face-to-face classes. Online courses can include any combination of synchronous (scheduled) and asynchronous (unscheduled) activities. You'll need to be very self-motivated and have a more flexible schedule and the ability to plan when and how you'll get all of your coursework done by assigned deadlines, so make sure you always know what to do and by when for each week of your course. You're well on your way to cultivating a can-do spirit and taking charge of your learning. Keep up the good work by doing as much as you can to understand each course concept on your own before demonstrating your understanding in the course.

2. You responded "yes" to the statement "I have 9 hours each week to spend on my online course." You have set adequate time aside to engage with the course content, complete assignments, and reflect on your learning. As you know, some weeks may require more than 9 hours of work, but if you are disciplined in your time management, you will not fall behind.

3. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am a self-directed and self-motivated person." It sounds like you already know of ways to achieve your goals! Self-directed and self-motivated learners do well in online courses because they know how to set small, incremental goals for themselves, and they know the value of periodic breaks and rewards. You're probably already skilled at finding value in what you are learning – be it professionally or personally. The positive outlook you probably already have towards your studies will get you far in online courses: always remind yourself of all that you've already accomplished, and you'll continue to make little hills out of those mountains!

4. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am capable of working independently." Wonderful! It sounds like online learning might be a good fit for you. You've probably already discovered that working independently relies heavily on knowing yourself, your interests, your motivations, your interests, etc. If you are interested in learning more about yourself, a good start would be a personality assessment. Did you know that the UHD Career Development Center can assist you with this? [Visit this link](#) for more information.

5. You answered "yes" to the statement "I can manage my study time efficiently to complete assignments on time." Excellent! You probably already know the value of putting important course-related dates on a semester calendar (either electronic or paper), using a weekly schedule to enter the start times and end times of class-related activities (as well as personal commitments), and making a to-do list of things to do each day (that you check off as you get them done). For more information on good time management, visit [this link](#). Another good resource is can be found by clicking [here](#).

6. You answered "yes" to the statement "I wait until the last day or the due date to work on assignments." For important assignments, in order to do well, you must treat them as a process instead of something that you can crank out at the last minute and still expect a good grade on. Go through your course calendar, and find all of the assignments that are "high dollar" – ones that are worth more points, ones that are cumulative in nature, ones that may look daunting to you from the beginning. If this isn't clear in the syllabus, ask your instructor! Mark the due dates in your calendar, and break into additional milestones so that you won't have to do it all at once. Using a writing assignment as an example, decide on a goal date to have finished some serious brainstorming, then a later one for an outline, then yet another for a rough draft, then another window of time for revising and editing, and a final one for polishing into a final version. Take advantage of campus resources along the way. Seek tutoring help! UHD has a wealth of such resources available at [this link](#).

7. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am capable of learning and solving problems alone." It sounds as if you already know to find ways to connect to campus resources and services as well as how important it is to make personal connections with your instructor, your fellow students, and UHD support staff. Online instructors appreciate students who ask questions: it's why they're there, so never feel uncomfortable with reaching out to your instructor to get assistance with any issue you may have. Remember to take advantage of online tutoring services available [here](#) as well!

8. You answered "yes" to the statement "For each course I take, I carefully read the syllabus and mark all important dates on my calendar." It sounds as if you already know that this is one of the best ways to successfully approach any course. Keep up the good work in accessing, reading, and referring back to the syllabus for each course you take. In addition to marking those dates off in your own semester calendar (on paper or in electronic form), be sure to block off time you'll need to prepare and study for those due dates!

9. You answered "yes" to the statement "I have my course textbook and other materials ready to start the first day of class." Excellent! This is another "trick of the trade" among successful students. Remember to make sure you're purchasing the correct edition of all textbooks (allowing for any shipping delays), and remember to activate any online accounts necessary for another web tools, labs, etc., that are also required for your course. Compare the course calendar to the table of contents and the pages of your textbook so you'll know where to go for what's covered in the course. Don't let not having your course materials by the start of the semester get in the way of your succeeding in the course!

10. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am comfortable expressing my thoughts in writing." Wonderful! You probably already know how important good writing is. In online courses, as it is often the most visible representation of you and your work to your instructor and your fellow students, let your writing be the way you demonstrate your mastery of course content. Take advantage of UHD services and resources to give your writing an extra boost! Contact the UHD Writing & Reading Center for additional assistance with your writing. They can help you in person or virtually. Visit them [here](#). UHD's W.I. Dykes Library is another excellent resource to assist you with improving your writing. Visit them at [this link](#).

11. You answered "No, I don't mind" to the statement "I don't mind doing a lot of reading." It sounds like you've got what it takes to be a self-starter, and that's important in online courses. Students who do well in online courses in college know that you must allow time for reading (as opposed to cramming right before a test), you must make an effort to understand and remember what you read (by taking notes and making outlines, for example), and you must figure out your best way to handle reading (by choosing an atmosphere that helps you learn and by choosing how much time to spend on reading in one sitting). For more information on reading in college courses, visit [this link](#).

12. You answered "no" to the statement "I have trouble comprehending what I read." Great! You probably already know how important it is to be able to keep up with and understand your course reading. In an online course, this is often even more important. For more information on improving your reading comprehension, visit [this link](#). This video includes an excellent explanation of the SQ3R technique (survey, question, read, review, and recite). Try it, and you'll definitely see a change in what you're able to recall and apply in your courses.

13. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am willing to email or have civil, polite discussions with people I might never see." Fantastic! As a reminder, whether on campus or online, as a UHD student it is your responsibility to follow the policies for student conduct as laid out in the Student Handbook to ensure everyone's right to a safe and secure community of civility, integrity and student learning. To read more about the Student Code of Conduct and policies laid out in the Student Handbook, click [here](#). A good resource for proper "netiquette" is [Colorado State University's guide](#).

14. You answered "yes" to the statement "I have regular and reliable access to a desktop or powerful laptop computer with a high-speed Internet connection that I can use to complete all coursework." Great! Now, it's time to make sure your system is configured properly. Begin by confirming that you have browsers on your computer that work with Blackboard (see [here](#)). Also, check to make sure your operating system is one that is supported by Blackboard as well at [Blackboard's Supporter Operating Systems and Browsers](#). Refer to [this table](#) to see operating systems and browsers and their compatibility with Blackboard. Blackboard will not work with Windows XP, Internet Explorer 6, 7, or 8, Firefox 1.x, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5 or 3.6, Safari 2 through 5 (or any version running on Windows), Mac OSX through 10.6, or JRE 5. The hardware requirements for Blackboard can be found [here](#). For courses utilizing Mediasite, Collaborate, or Zoom, having a system with only the minimum requirements is not enough. In order to have the optimal experience in all courses, we strongly encourage users to have a system that at least meets the recommended requirements.

15. You answered "yes" to the statement "I understand that smartphones and tablets are not meant to be used for regular course work and assessments in an online course." It sounds as if you already know to access your coursework, especially anything that's graded, on a laptop or desktop instead. Smartphones and tablets will often force you to access the mobile versions of websites (like Blackboard or other important course pages), meaning you won't have access to all of the content you're expected to see. Also, exams are often configured so that your one attempt also requires other technology tools like Lockdown Browser, Monitor, or other academic integrity tools. Feel free to use your mobile device for reminders and general browsing, but always go to your laptop or desktop for graded coursework.

16. You answered "yes" to the statement "I can download software to my computer, create documents on it, save them to my computer, and upload them as directed to other sites." Great! UHD is committed to not letting technology get in the way of your success in online courses. As such, we offer you access to on-demand training on technology skills (and more) through [Skillport](#). We also offer you free antivirus protection with free McAfee Antivirus Software. Download and install this program at [My Uhd e-services](#) in the (blue) Student eServices pane. Click on "Software Download," log in, select "Download This Title," agree to the terms of service, select "Begin Downloading This File," and click on the FTP link you are presented with. Access web versions of all Office applications, email, and cloud storage through your free Office365 account [here](#). Set up your computer to take tests more securely with [Respondus Lockdown Browser](#). Download and install Zoom for web conferencing by clicking [here](#). Finally, get help with all matters related to Blackboard by clicking [here](#).

17. You answered "yes" to the question "I know how to upload and download files to a web site such as Blackboard." That's excellent! Remember that if you ever need to refer to support information for Blackboard and other technology, visit [our student training documentation](#).

18. Awesome! You answered "yes" to the statement "I am familiar with Microsoft Office software (Word, PPT, Excel, etc.), my Office365 account, and Zoom web conferencing software and can use them to complete assignments." You're well on your way to success in technology usage in online courses at UHD! Remember that if you ever need to refer back to help on Office and Zoom, here are some links: [Office 365](#) [Zoom](#) [Zoom Documentation](#)

19. You answered "yes" to the statement "I know how to access the UHD Library's online research databases." Great job! You are well on your way utilizing the many resources available to you as a UHD student provided by the library. Many of the library's databases, including our catalog of books, ebooks, and more, can be searched using our LibSearch box located on the library's [homepage](#). Remember, Librarians are here to help you 24/7 via our [Ask a Librarian Chat](#) to help you with your research. If you are having trouble connecting to our databases off campus, click [here](#) to help you troubleshoot your connection.

20. You answered "yes" to the statement "I am capable of using the UHD Library's online research databases to find materials to help me complete my course assignments." Great job! The Library provides you access to many different databases offering a wide range of scholarly and popular resources at [the UHD Library](#). The scope of each database ranges from general subject matter to more subject specific resources. Our LibGuides act as a guide to research that is subject specific and sometimes class specific, focusing your research to those key databases and resources important to each subject. To find our list of LibGuides by subject, click [here](#). These will also provide the contact of your Subject Librarian who can assist you in your research. As always, you can use our [Ask a Librarian chat](#) to have a librarian help you 24/7.

21. You answered "yes" to the statement "I can evaluate material I find on the web to determine its reliability." Wonderful! The ability to evaluate sources is a valuable tool to have in your research toolbox. You can always look [here](#) to remember the steps for evaluating information sources. For more help when starting research, look at the [Library Research 101 page](#) for information on citing sources, scholarly vs popular resources, and more. As always, you can use our [Ask a Librarian chat](#) to have a librarian help you 24/7 to schedule a one on one consultation to help you in the research process.

22. You answered "yes" to the question "I know how to cite sources properly using the citation format required for my courses." Great Job! Citations help facilitate dialogue amongst scholars and as a UHD scholar, you will be asked to properly cite any resources you use in your research. Using citations styles help you to avoid plagiarism, to use information ethically, to keep compliant with the Student Code of Conduct , and help you to structure your research in a cohesive manner. For more information on citation styles, click [here](#). For more about UHD's policy regarding plagiarism and Academic Honesty, look at section 3.2 of the student handbook found at [this address](#). If you need further help, UHD's Writing and Reading Center takes online appointments to not only help with citations, but with the writing process for research. You can find out more [here](#).

The Student Online Readiness Self-Assessment was made possible by the collaborative efforts of members of the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence Online Subcommittee, namely:

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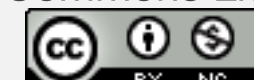
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The questions were inspired from other similar tools such as:

[DANTES Self-Evaluation for Students Considering Distance Learning Courses](#)
[SORT: Student Online Readiness Tool](#)
[Are You Ready? Student Online Readiness Survey](#)

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