Independent Studies: Readiness to Learn

Many skills and attitudes towards learning are required for success in an independent study environment. The following learning skills assessment tool will help you evaluate your readiness to learn independently. Consider completing this evaluation on your own in addition to being rated by someone else who knows you well. While self-reflection is important, it is always useful to receive feedback from someone else who knows you and how you work. Also, review the scores with your advising faculty member for input. Under the current importance column, a score of 1, for example, indicates that the item is currently very important to you. Under the current skill rating column, however, a score of 1 indicates that you feel you have an excellent set of skills pertaining to the item.

Helpful hint: Return to this review at mid and end points in the unit as a tool for evaluating your skill development.

Skill or competency	Current importance 1-very 2-fairly 3-not very 4-unimportant	Current skill rating 1-excellent 2-good 3-adequate 4-poor
Life skills: Organisation of time and resources in your life, co-operation in working with others, available support network	1	4
Independence: Autonomy, self-motivation, self-reliance, resourcefulness, initiative, and judgment	1	2
"Basic" skills: Literacy, numeracy, graphicity, computer literacy, etc.	1	2
Information skills: Ability to find information by: using libraries; abstracts; community resources; interpreting data, charts, tables, timetables, etc.	1	3
Study skills: Organisation of material for projects, note-taking and reading for different purposes, understanding assignment requirements	1	3
Learning to learn: Awareness of task demands, flexibility, self-knowledge of learning preferences, awareness of learning process, self-evaluation	1	3

Skill or competency	Current importance 1-very 2-fairly 3-not very 4-unimportant	Current skill rating 1-excellent 2-good 3-adequate 4-poor
Planning skills: Ability to design a plan of strategies for meeting learning needs, ability to carry out a plan systematically and sequentially	1	2
Problem development skills: Ability to formulate questions that are answerable through various research activities (projects, library, readings)	2	2
Analytical skills: Ability to select and use most effective means of acquiring information, ability to analyse and organise information, ability to select most relevant and reliable information sources	1	1
Communication skills: Ability to write reports, essays, instructions, discourse, display data, etc.	2	1
Evaluation skills: Ability to collect evidence of accomplishments and have it evaluated, ability to accept constructive feedback from others	2	3
Completion skills: Ability to identify problem areas, ability to revise work, commitment to completing units and program	1	3

An average rating of 1-3 in each column indicates readiness for independent study. An average rating higher than 3 indicates that you may need to seek out some help in certain skill areas as you progress through your unit.

Average Current skill rating: 2.4