



What Makes a Good eLearning Student?

An eLearning course is primarily an independent study course and therefore may not be suitable for all students. The eLearning student must take responsibility for her/his own learning. In any eLearning program, the capacity for self-directed learning is crucial. While the instructor and fellow students can provide some support, the eLearner is expected to provide the internal motivation to manage his/her own learning during the course of study and have a basic grasp of Internet navigation skills. The eLearner is also expected to take responsibility for contacting the instructor with her/his questions.

eLearning students should have higher than the lowest qualifying scores for English and mathematics courses. If your score on the COMPASS is not five points or more above the qualifying minimum for transfer classes, you may have trouble in the eLearning course equivalent.

eLearning courses are very focused. If you need extra help learning the material, you may have to get the information on your own or at least take responsibility for asking the instructor for assistance. eLearning courses also tend to be harder than, or require more total time than, traditional courses.

Successful eLearning students are generally highly motivated, self-starting people who read a lot. Many are home bound for any number of reasons or just prefer to take classes at home. Others are place bound. They might be working on an oil rig in the Pacific Ocean, or fishing in the Gulf of Alaska. Some are job bound. They may have rotating and unusual shifts, like some industrial workers or fire fighters. Others are just trying to get more of that precious commodity – time! Perhaps the greatest advantage stated by people taking an eLearning course is that it allows them to manage their own time to meet their needs.

Required Skills

To be successful in an eLearning course you will need to know how to:

1. Be an independent learner
2. Use the Internet
3. Use a search engine
4. Set up your computer and browser to be compatible with Canvas or the software used for your class
5. Use a word processor (Some classes may require the use of other software; check with your professor)
6. Send and receive email
7. Send an email with an attachment
8. Use a PC, Mac, or mobile device
9. Copy and paste from one document to another
10. Take a timed test
11. Use a discussion forum
12. Use a chat room

*Skills 10-12 are not required in all courses.



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Sometimes students feel they can learn technical skills while taking an online course. In this case they are trying to learn two different sets of skills: the skill-set for the course they are enrolled in and one on how to use the technology -- only one of them is taught by the professor. If you do not have these skills you should consider not enrolling in an online course.

Back-up Plan

Students are encouraged to have a back-up plan in case their primary computer malfunctions; they experience other technical difficulties such as an interruption in internet service; or they travel during the quarter. They should be aware of another computer they can use that is convenient to their location. For example, one might be able to use a friend's, neighbor's, or relative's computer; one in the public library; one in the campus labs; or one in a public Internet Cafe. Students are expected to follow the back-up plan when necessary so that they may continue their coursework. The need for an extension is a moot point and may not be granted by the faculty. This type of critical thinking on the student's part is a necessary skill in dealing with technology in all facets of life today.

Online

The largest number of eLearning courses offered at the college are online courses taught by our faculty. Most of the Green River online courses use [Canvas](#). Login instructions are on the Canvas login page.

Classes listed as online should not require on campus attendance although many of our online faculty require proctored exams. You can take the exam at our testing center or arrangements can be made for the exam to be proctored in most places throughout the world. Check with your professor for more information.

Hybrid

Hybrid courses combine online and classroom instruction. Therefore they require on campus attendance. The Class Schedule lists the time and location of the first meeting. Your instructor will give you directions about your course at that meeting.

Online classes

It is your responsibility as the student to initiate contact with your instructor when taking online courses. Here are some easy steps to find your class.

1. Go to www.greenriver.edu/elearning. Online courses are typically available for log-in at **noon** the first day of the quarter.
2. Log in to Canvas with your Green River email account and SID.
3. Hover over "Courses" at the top and a menu will drop down with the online courses you're in.



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4. If you experience any difficulty logging into your class, you must contact your instructor and/or the eLearning office **immediately**. If your class doesn't appear in the "Courses" menu, verify that it is on your class schedule. If it isn't, you will need to register through Online Services. If it is on your schedule, contact the eLearning office.
5. Remember to treat online classes as any other; your attendance is required on a regular basis and assignment due dates are expected as any other class.
6. Finally, save all sent items and grade postings until after grades are posted for the quarter; this is true for online or ground classes.