Get Started with Online Learning

What is Online Learning or e-Learning?

e-Learning courses are completed entirely online in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Learning is asynchronous. While students are not physically present in a classroom with one another or with the teacher, they are still part of a learning community. In e-Learning courses, students have a variety of opportunities to engage with each other and to showcase their learning through discussions, assignments and evidence of their learning in Portfolio.
Online learning is available to students in Grades 9 to 12.

What are the benefits of Online Learning?

Online learning gives students:
- Access to a variety of courses
- Flexibility in scheduling work time
- Control over the pace of work on course assignments

How can I be successful with Online Learning?

Good work habits are essential to success when participating in an e-Learning course.
- Watch the orientation videos and become familiar with the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and the online course
- Read content and instructions carefully
- Create a support team (classmates, teacher)
- Ask questions
- Be aware of deadlines and use a calendar and notifications to help manage your time
- Set aside a regular time and place to work each day

Online Learning is NOT:

- **in-person learning**, in which students are physically present with other students and a teacher in school
- **blended learning**, in which digital learning resources are used in an in-person learning setting, or in which students are taught part of the time in person and part of the time online
- **flipped classrooms**, a type of blended learning in which students are introduced to content online and practise working through the content in person with a teacher in school
- **remote learning**, characterized by minimum synchronous learning requirements
- **an ILC**, which is an Independent Learning Course

What does synchronous and asynchronous mean?

Synchronous learning

Learning that happens in real time. Synchronous learning involves using text, video, or voice communication in a way that enables educators and other members of the school- or board-based team to instruct and connect with students in real time. Synchronous learning supports the well-being and academic achievement of all students, including students with special education needs, by providing educators and students with an interactive and engaging way to learn. It helps teachers provide immediate feedback to students and enables students to interact with one another.

Asynchronous learning

Learning that is not delivered in real time. Asynchronous learning may involve students watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks, or contributing to online discussion boards.

Is Online Learning right for me?

Complete the checklist to see whether Online Learning is right for you.

Want to learn more about Online Learning and preview courses?

Check out Ontario's Online Course Preview to see what courses look like.

How do I get started in my Online Learning course?

This Get Started in the VLE document will help you get started in the VLE and your course.