



CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ready for DEd?

While Distance Education courses mirror the format and quality of instruction in our traditional classrooms, this method of instruction may not be appropriate for everyone. To find out whether you are likely to be successful as a student in DEd courses, you may wish to take the following quiz.

Instructions: Print this page then circle the responses that best describe you. Scoring is available at the end of the quiz and explanations are provided to help you interpret your score. Please answer the questions as truthfully you can.

1. I would classify myself as:
 - a. someone who is a self-starter and internally motivated.
 - b. someone who needs occasional prodding to accomplish goals.
 - c. someone who does not work well independently and requires constant prodding or reminders.

2. I would further classify myself as:
 - a. visual learner—I retain material best when I “see” it.
 - b. auditory learner—I retain material best when I “hear” it.
 - c. both an auditory and visual learner.

3. It is important that I feel part of a class:
 - a. rarely
 - b. sometimes
 - c. always

4. When I am assigned tasks, I:
 - a. often get things done on time or early.
 - b. need continual prompting to get things done on time.
 - c. frequently postpone work until the last minute or sometimes when I am late.

5. When an instructor hands out directions for an assignment:
 - a. I can figure out the instructions on my own.
 - b. I can usually follow the directions on my own, but I like to be able to ask for help if needed.
 - c. I have difficulty figuring out instructions on my own and I like them explained orally first.

6. To me having the instructor in my classroom while learning the subject is:
 - a. not particularly necessary for me.
 - b. somewhat important to me.
 - c. very important for me to understand the material.

7. When I turn in an assignment, I expect the teacher to grade and to comment on my assignments:
 - a. within a reasonable amount of time, so I can review what I did but I do not get frustrated if it takes longer.
 - b. within a day or two, or I forget what I did.
 - c. and return them immediately or I get very frustrated and confused.

8. When it comes to the organization of the class material:
 - a. I can learn even if the class is not highly structured.
 - b. I like some structure in the class.
 - c. I feel very uncomfortable and have difficulty learning when a class is not highly structured.

9. My computer skills are:
 - a. proficient—I have excellent computer skills and would label myself as Internet literate.
 - b. I am somewhat familiar with the computer and the Internet environment.
 - c. I am not very familiar with a computer and do not feel comfortable surfing the net.

10. When I am asked to use DVDs, TVs, computers, email or other technologies that may be new to be:
 - a. I have little or no difficulty learning these new skills.
 - b. I sometimes feel apprehensive, but try them anyway if I know that I can call for help when necessary.
 - c. I frequently get frustrated and I may put off the work or even try to avoid it.

11. The computer and Internet connection required for the class:
 - a. is at home, at work, or somewhere also which is readily available for me.
 - b. may be difficult at times to locate.
 - c. is not readily available to me.

12. When considering registering for an online course:
 - a. I am eager to use this new technology as a learning tool.
 - b. I am somewhat apprehensive about this type of course.
 - c. I am nervous about taking a course outside the traditional classroom environment.

13. I think my reading comprehension is:
- better than average
 - average
 - below average
14. Considering my professional and personal schedules, the amount of time that I have to work on a distance education course is:
- 8 hours a week
 - 6 hours a week
 - 4 hours a week
15. As a writer, I would classify myself as:
- good
 - average
 - below average

Scoring: Add 3 points for each “a” that you circled, 2 for each “b,” and 1 for each “c.”

- 20 or above: a DEd course is a real possibility for you
- 11-20: DEd courses may work for you, but you may need to make a few adjustments in your schedule and study habits to succeed.
- 10 or less: DEd may not currently be the best alternative for you; talk to your advisor.

Explanation:

- DEd students sometimes neglect their courses because of personal or professional circumstances. Having an important reason for taking the course helps a student stick with it.
- Some students enjoy the independence of DEd, while others find the independence uncomfortable and prefer to be part of a traditional classroom.
- DEd courses offer greater scheduling options for students, but they require more self-discipline than traditional courses.
- Some students learn better by interacting with their teacher and other students; others prefer learning by listening and studying on their own. Most DEd classes offer less opportunity for group interaction than traditional courses.
- DEd courses require you to work from written directions rather than spoken.
- It may take longer to get feedback and comments back from your instructor in DEd classes than in traditional ones.
- DEd courses requires at least as much time, though usually more, as traditional classes. Many students say that DEd courses are as hard or harder than traditional classes.
- Students who do best in DEd courses are usually comfortable getting in touch ith the instructor as soon as they need help with the course.