



Online Technology Survey

The North Shore Workforce Investment Board has conducted a survey, in conjunction with Salem State University, Endicott College, and North Shore Community College, on the prevalence of online courses. The online learning survey sought to determine the current depth, availability, and suitability of online training for North Shore Career Center customers. The impetus for the online learning survey came from focus groups of North Shore Career Center customers who had requested that training options be available through online or hybrid courses.

Highlights of the Survey:

- We surveyed 64 professors on the available of online courses, usage of technology in the classroom, and the characteristics of a successful online learner.
- Online courses are available at all institutions surveyed, at all educational levels, for a wide variety of disciplines.
 - 86% of professors indicated that they teach at least one online course in a typical year.
- Technology has changed the educational landscape. Professors have incorporated the use of technology into their curriculum and they expect students to have basic technological skills by the time they enter the classroom.
 - 98% of professors indicated that their courses require the usage of technology.
 - Basic technological skills are proficiency in Microsoft Office, particularly in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, using the internet as a professional tool: access to email, upload & download files, participating in message boards, and collaborating on group documents.

Characteristics of Successful Online Learner:

Self-Motivation

- With online learning, students have more responsibility for their own learning and progress compared to traditional face-to-face courses. This requires students to have the motivation to continue through a course without the accountability that comes from face-to-face interaction with their professor.

Time Management

- Students are responsible for meeting deadlines for course work. Often they are expected to know when a deadline is occurring without reminders from the professor. They also need to be able to balance their personal and educational lives.

Access to a Computer with Broadband Internet

- Students need regular access to a computer with high-speed internet. They should expect to login to their Learning Management Platform (LMP) every day to check for course updates, submit assignments, or interact with their peers. Students may need to negotiate with others (significant others, children, roommates, etc...) for scheduled times to access a computer.