

Topical Module: Experiences with Online Learning

This module, new for the 2021 administration, was developed in collaboration with Quality Matters, a leader in online instruction. Based in part on [Standards for the Quality Matters Higher Education Rubric \(6th Ed.\)](#), the item set measures instructional aspects that experts consider to be ideal for online courses. The set also assesses how students engage in both online and hybrid courses, their degree of comfort with online learning and experience of support, and ideas about how the learning experience can be improved.

You previously indicated that you have taken at least one **entirely or partly online course during the current school year**. Please tell us more about your online learning experiences.

1. During the current school year, to what extent have your **entirely or partly online** courses provided the following?

Response Options: Very much, Quite a bit, Some, Very little, Not at all

- Clearly stated learning objectives or goals
- Clear guidance about how to get started in the course
- A clearly stated grading policy
- Course information and activities that are easy to locate
- Sufficient instructions for using technology
- Clarity about when instructors would respond to you (answers to your questions, feedback about coursework, etc.)
- Clear expectations for your interactions with other students
- Assessments (quizzes, projects, assignments, exams, etc.) that help you achieve course learning objectives or goals
- Instructional materials (readings, videos, etc.) that help you achieve course learning objectives or goals

2. During the current school year, about how many of your **entirely or partly online** courses included the following?

Response Options: All, Most, Some, None

- Live sessions including the instructor and students
- Pre-recorded presentations by the instructor
- Presentations or talks by experts in the field (live or recorded)
- Group projects or presentations
- Interaction among students in small groups or breakout rooms
- Frequent quizzes or short assignments to check your understanding
- Coursework that challenges you to enhance your knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Opportunities for personalized feedback, support, and guidance from the instructor
- Opportunities to apply your learning to a real-world problem or issue

3. During the current school year, how comfortable have you been doing the following in your **entirely or partly online** courses?

Response Options: Not at all comfortable ... Very comfortable, Not applicable

- Participating in online discussion boards, forums, or other discussion tools
- Participating in live course discussions
- Taking proctored online exams
- Interacting with other students in the course
- Interacting with your instructor to discuss course topics, ideas, or concepts
- Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)
- Seeking feedback and guidance from your instructor

4. To improve the **online** course-taking experience, how important is it that your institution do the following?

Response Options: Very important, Important, Somewhat important, Not at all important

- Increase interactions between students
- Increase interactions with instructors
- Improve responsiveness of instructors
- Improve online tools for student collaboration
- Provide more online learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)

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5. Please describe one way **online learning** at your institution could be improved and one thing that should not be changed. (5,000 character limit)

6. Considering your experience taking **partly or entirely online** courses during the current school year, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Response Options: Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree
 - a. Internet service (availability, speed, reliability, etc.) where you live has been sufficient to participate in the course.
 - b. The hardware (computer, tablet, mobile phone, printer, etc.) and software where you live have been sufficient to participate in the course.
 - c. Study spaces where you live have been sufficient for your needs.
 - d. Technology support has been available.
 - e. The online course platform has been user-friendly (available when needed, easy to access and navigate, etc.).

7. Which of the following best describes how your entirely or partly online courses have typically been delivered?
Response Options: Synchronous (live class meetings at scheduled times); Asynchronous (participation not at scheduled times); A mixture of synchronous and asynchronous

8. How would you evaluate your online learning experience during the current school year?
Response Options: Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor

Note: Some of these questions are based on Standards from the Quality Matters Higher Education Rubric, Sixth Edition.
<https://www.qualitymatters.org/sites/default/files/PDFs/StandardsfromtheQMHigherEducationRubric.pdf>