

# Are Online and Hybrid Courses Right for You?



Are you a Triton student considering online and/or hybrid courses? Whether you're balancing work, family or other responsibilities, online courses offer the flexibility you need to succeed. Wondering what online learning is really like? Let's separate fact from fiction and help you decide if it's right for you.

## MYTHS VS. REALITIES OF ONLINE LEARNING

**Myth #1: Online courses are easier.** Not true! The reality is that an online course is just as rigorous as an in-person course at Triton, and has the same requirements and expectations. The only difference is the modality. You will still engage with classmates and your instructor while completing assignments, exams and projects.

**Myth #2: No physical materials are needed in an online course.** This varies by instructor. Many online courses still require a textbook to be purchased, whether as a hard copy or a digital one. If you are enrolled in a hybrid course that has lab sessions in person, you may be required to purchase course materials. Keep in mind, you will also need to have a device such as a laptop or computer and a stable internet connection to access your online course.

**Myth #3: Online courses are faster than an in-person course.** This is partially true. Many online courses are accelerated to eight-weeks. This doesn't mean half the content or workload of a full-semester course, rather the opposite. Eight-week accelerated courses contain the same number of lecture hours as an in-person course. Because of this, the pace and weekly requirements are faster than a traditional 16-week course requiring strong time-management skills from students.

**Myth #4: I won't have to engage with people in an online course.** A myth, for sure! Participation is essential and expected in order to stay engaged in an online course. In fact, participation is more intentional since you have more time to think through your responses as opposed to being called on randomly. Online courses include discussions, group work and interactions with your instructor. The only difference is the correspondence is virtual through video conferencing or emails instead of in the same room. You will still have the opportunity to get to know your classmates and form a personal learning network even when connecting remotely.

**Myth #5: I won't have support if I take an online course.** Not true! You will have the same level of access to your instructor as you do in an in-person course, it just might require more intentional connection. Even off campus, Triton students have full access to student services, including advising, tutoring, library services and more. If you require course accommodations through CASS, these are honored in an online course the same as they would be if you were attending in person.

**Myth #6: Online courses are boring.** Far from true! The best online courses feature multimodal resources and contain the same content you would find in person. You may be asked to read articles, websites and texts, watch videos, engage in polls and online quizzes, and more. Expect to see course lecture videos, audio files, images, infographics and presentations.

**Myth #7: Online courses are self-paced so I can learn at my own speed.** This is partially true. While online courses allow for flexibility with engagement of materials and coursework, they have the same deadlines and structured schedules as an in-person class.

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