

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 an online app called 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

What is the Online Learning Graduation Requirement?

Beginning with the cohort of students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year, all students must earn a minimum of two online learning credits as part of the [requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#) unless they opt out. Adult learners entering the Ontario secondary school system in 2023-2024 or later will also be required to meet the online learning graduation requirement unless they opt out in accordance with the procedure described below.

Students working towards other certificates (for example, the Certificate of Accomplishment or an Ontario Secondary School Certificate) are not required to complete the online learning graduation requirement. Some may, however, be encouraged to enroll in e-Learning courses to develop digital literacy and other transferable skills for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives.

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.

Opting out of Online Learning

Parents/guardians or students 18 and over can opt out of the online learning graduation requirement by completing the Online Learning Opting Out form. Please contact your child's Guidance Counsellor to obtain the form or for more information.

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?

Use the following resources to help you get started in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

How Do I...?	Resources
Access and log into the VLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions• Video
Navigate my e-Learning course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video
Navigate School and Course Homepages	Become familiar with the VLE navbars and widgets. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions• Navigate the School Homepage - Video• Navigate the Course Homepage - Video
Access Brightspace through the mobile App	Work from your phone or tablet in the Brightspace app. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video Submit an assignment in the mobile app. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video
Receive notifications through email or on my phone	Receive notifications to your email or phone. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions
Link to my Google account	Easily submit work from your Google Drive. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions
Submit an Assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video
View Assignment Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video
Use the Portfolio App	Quickly submit images or videos to your Portfolio from your phone or tablet. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video