

Am I Ready for Distance Learning?

You have a unique set of circumstances.

Research has shown that different circumstances can affect how prepared you are for success in your study.

You can control or work on some of your circumstances, especially if you know that they are important.

If we have some idea of your learning context then we can better support you into success with your study.

Circumstances <i>The reason we ask the question is given in italics below</i>	Please circle the option that applies				
	A	B	C	D	
Are you self-disciplined, able to construct and work to a schedule? <i>You must take responsibility for finding out and managing your deadlines.</i>	Not really	Sometimes	When I set my mind to it	Yes, absolutely	
Which statement best describes how well you can study on your own? <i>You will need to sustain your own effort, without being regularly inspired by others.</i>	Not good	Unsure	Good	Excellent	
Would you describe yourself as motivated for study at Laidlaw? <i>If you are studying because you have been told to by someone else, or in the absence of other ideas, then it may be hard to persist when difficulties arise.</i>	Not really		Yes	Highly	
How would you best describe your reading and writing skills? <i>You will need to spend quite a lot of time reading, and also writing essays and assessments. Some readings may be challenging to understand.</i>	Not practiced	Practiced	Proficient	Excellent	
How old will you be when you start your first paper(s)? <i>Older students often have informal experience which helps with their study.</i>	18 or under	19-23	24-44	45+	
What is your highest level of previous qualification? <i>Prior qualifications prepare students for further tertiary study. Because theology is a 'humanities' type subject, then if your qualification is a technical one, you may not find it has prepared you well for this type of study.</i>	None or low	University Entrance or Certificate	Diploma or Skill based/ Technical Degree	Humanities Degree or Post-graduate	
What are your family's expectations? <i>If your family is supportive then they are more likely to give you time and resources for your study.</i>	Not supportive	Mostly supportive		Fully supportive	
Are you the first of your family to study at a tertiary level? <i>If someone in your family has studied at tertiary level, then you are more likely to have seen the necessary study habits/attitudes.</i>		Yes	No		
Which of these statements best describes your internet access? <i>Having less online access will limit the time you can spend on the online learning and library sites.</i>	At friends, work, or library	Dial-up at home	Broadband at home		
Which of these statements best describes your ability to use a computer? <i>Less familiarity with computers will be a barrier when you want to find resources, fill out forms, and explore for information.</i>	Not at all confident	Can use all common apps	Confident and able to explore		
Add the number you circled in each column.					
	Multiply the above number by 1 =	Multiply the above number by 3 =	Multiply the above number by 5 =	Multiply the above number by 10 =	TOTAL

Must be returned with your application

Please turn over to see what your score means for you...

What does my score mean?

Here is our suggestion – if you would like to discuss this further, please contact Fiona Fey ffey@laidlaw.ac.nz.

Your score	What you can expect:
Greater than 70	You should have no difficulty with DL study. You will need to allow about 10 hours per week per course.
51-70	You can approach your distance learning study with confidence, but expect to work hard! Plan well and maintain consistent study habits.
21-50	You are likely to find distance learning study quite a challenge. When you enrol, please make sure you are doing a manageable number of courses (see below) and that you develop a solid study plan. If you are able to place some good boundaries around your time and develop good study habits, you have a good chance of success.
Less than 20	It doesn't seem as if you are ready to begin your distance learning study yet. We recommend you change your circumstances in some way before studying with us. Call us for advice on how best to prepare.

Have I selected the right number of courses?

How many courses are you planning to take next semester?		x 10 =	
How many hours per week will you be employed (paid or voluntary) while you are studying?			
How many hours a week are you typically involved in church and hobby activities?			
How many hours a week do you have family or other commitments?			
How many hours a week are you involved in other study, at another institution?			
Total: Add the five boxes above:			

If your total from the above table is more than 60, then please reduce your courses. If you cannot reduce your courses, then call us for advice on alternatives (e.g. summer school, campus-based classes).

While it may be possible to do intense study on top of a busy workload when you are studying on campus, it is much harder when studying through Distance Learning. This is because of the intense reading required.

Furthermore, the discipline of theology can be more time consuming than other disciplines, because it involves considering potentially life changing issues, which requires extra reflection and integration.

Need some help?

If you wish to discuss anything from this questionnaire, or to get help in choosing programmes or courses (papers), please contact Academic Support: Fiona Fey ffey@laidlaw.ac.nz.