

Are you ready to take interactive distance learning classes?

Ever since COVID-19 hit in March 2020, Portland Fashion Institute has offered some classes online.

Courses for PFI's three certificate programs are the same length and have the same content whether online or in-person.

Online are scheduled for the same days and times as if they were in-person classes. They have the same curriculum, content and requirements as in-person class. They are taught by instructors who have taught the same class both in-person and online.

But online classes need you to be a self-starter. You need to:

-- ***Manage time.*** You may find you need more time to prepare and to complete classroom projects or homework on your own. You will be asked to take part in forums, submit assignments and take quizzes. Even though your teacher will be available to answer questions, you will spend time on your own reading, researching and studying. You need to be available to attend class just as you would any appointment.

-- ***Have access to a computer and the Internet.*** Cell phone apps don't work for learning management systems. You can't rely on them to allow full participation and to complete assignments. That means you must know how to use a computer, including basic programs such as Word.

-- ***Have access to a local library.*** PFI has an E-library and access to Multnomah County's E-library. But you must have access to your local library and an active library card. You won't be able to live on Wikipedia.

To see if online learning matches your personality, take a minute to answer YES or NO to the following:

- I have (or am willing to obtain) access to a computer and an Internet connection at home.
- I feel comfortable with my computer skills. I Can open documents, attach documents and download.
- I am comfortable with sending e-mail, browsing websites and using new technologies.
- I feel that high quality learning can take place via computer.
- I can dedicate 24 to 30 hours a week (anytime during the day or night) to take part in the learning process.
- My lifestyle (family, work or personal schedule) makes it difficult for me to attend courses consistently at the same time each day.
- I can rank the priority of tasks then accomplish them before their deadlines.
- I am comfortable communicating my ideas in writing.
- I feel comfortable reading, viewing and researching material from various sources and integrating it on my own.

- I like introducing my own views and thoughts in the learning process.
- I am comfortable working independently and do not feel the need for constant attention and direction from the instructor.
- I find it easy to ask an instructor for help when I have trouble understanding a topic and need clarification.
- I have successfully completed an online course in the past.

This should give you a better idea if you are ready to take online classes or if you should stick to in-person classes. Talk to PFI's registrar for more information at (971) 801-7199 or info@pfi.edu