POSTSECONDARY PLANNING: LESSON PLAN 2
ONLINE EDUCATION AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Summary:
Introduce students to two of the newer postsecondary learning options available.

Lesson Objectives:
Students will be able to:
- Identify an advantage and a disadvantage of online education
- Explain the difference between Online Education and Distance Learning

| Grade Levels: 9 - 12 |

| Time Needed: 50 minutes |

Resources Needed:
- Access to [RUReady.ND.gov](http://RUReady.ND.gov)
- Copies of the Online Education and Distance Learning worksheet
- Teacher copy of the Online Education and Distance Learning worksheet

Computer Use: Yes

ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors:

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<tr>
<th>Mindsets:</th>
<th>2. Self-confidence in ability to succeed</th>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Understanding that postsecondary education and life-long learning are necessary for long-term career success</td>
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<th>Behaviors:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Strategies</strong></td>
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<td>1. Demonstrate critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions</td>
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<td>2. Demonstrate creativity</td>
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<td>3. Use time-management, organizational and study skills</td>
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<td>5. Apply media and technology skills</td>
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<td><strong>Self-Management Skills</strong></td>
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<td>7. Demonstrate effective coping skills when faced with a problem</td>
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<td><strong>Social Skills</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Use effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills</td>
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<td>2. Create positive and supportive relationships with other students</td>
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<td>6. Use effective collaboration and cooperation skills</td>
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<td>7. Use leadership and teamwork skills to assert self, when necessary</td>
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<td>9. Demonstrate social maturity and behaviors appropriate to the situation and environment</td>
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Overview:

Even for students living near colleges, universities or career/technical/vocational schools, online education offers the opportunity to connect to a class offered anywhere in the world. Distance learning is similar, but is usually offered through a traditional college or university. Students sometimes must attend class in person for the first session, or others can complete some or all of the course requirements at home.

Activity:

1. Instruct students to sign into their account. Click the College Planning tab and then Prepare for College.

2. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 6 students, if possible.

3. Distribute the Online Education and Distance Learning worksheet

4. Instruct students that half of the members of each group will be researching Online Education: What You Need To Know, and the other half of each group will be researching Distance Learning.

5. Distribute the Online Education and Distance Learning worksheet to the entire class.

6. Instruct groups to decide which half will research online learning and which half will research distance learning.

7. Allow students ample time to complete the worksheet activity.

8. When students have completed their section worksheet, instruct the class that the two halves of each group will take turns “teaching” the other half of their group about the topic they were assigned using notes taken on their worksheets. Instruct students that they should take notes on their worksheets when they are the half being taught so they will have a record of the information about both online education and distance learning on their worksheet.

9. Instruct students to write their thoughts and save them in Your Journal on the Your Portfolio tab of Choices360. The following questions will help direct them: What did you learn about online education and distance learning that you found most interesting? Could you imagine yourself choosing to study either through the online education or distance learning option? Why or why not? What did you like or dislike about this exercise? Has this exercise exposed you to new concerns, thoughts and ideas about the options open to you after high school graduation?

Wrap Up:

1. Facilitate a class discussion on distance learning and online education. Ask students to share their thoughts and concerns about the two approaches to learning and to share whether or not they would consider taking coursework using either or both of those methods.

Follow-Up Options:

1. Encourage students to review their worksheet with a parent, guardian or adult mentor.
Complete the section of the worksheet that was assigned to your group. Answer the questions on the lines provided.

**Online Education: What You Need to Know**

If your group was assigned the Online Education topic:

1. Sign in to your account on [RUReady.ND.gov](https://RUReady.ND.gov)
2. Click the **College Planning** tab.
3. Click **Prepare for College**
4. Click **Online Education: What You Need to Know** in the **Answers to Your College Questions** box in the **Getting Ready for College** section of **Prepare for College**.
5. Read the **Online Education: What You Need to Know** article, and complete the following questions on this section of the worksheet:

   - What is the definition of online, or e-learning, according to Dr. Pannekoek? __________

   - What is a hybrid or blended course? _________________________________________

   - Does Dr. Pannekoek believe that students retain what they learn better through regular classes, or through online classes? __________________________________________

   - According to Dr. John Cassidy, the hybrid approach works better for some subjects. What example is used to illustrate a skill that you can only learn by doing it in a real-life lab? ___________________________________________________________________

   - From the **Advantages of Online Education** section, list five advantages of online education:

     1. _______________________________________________________________________
     2. _______________________________________________________________________
     3. _______________________________________________________________________
     4. _______________________________________________________________________
     5. _______________________________________________________________________

   - From the **Disadvantages** section, list three disadvantages of online education:

     1. _______________________________________________________________________
     2. _______________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________

- In the **Scams and Fake Online Colleges** section, how many fake online colleges in the U.S. alone does Dr. Phillips' company track? ______________

- Who should you check with to find out if the accreditation of an online school is real or fake? ________________________________________________________________

- From the **Questions to Ask** section, list three questions you should ask a school before enrolling:
  1. __________________________________________________________________
  2. __________________________________________________________________
  3. __________________________________________________________________

**Distance Learning**

If your group was assigned the Distance Learning topic:

1. Sign in to your account on [RUReady.ND.gov](http://RUReady.ND.gov)
2. Click the **College Planning** tab.
3. Click **Prepare for College**
4. Click **Distance Learning** in the **Answers to Your College Questions** box in the **Getting Ready for College** section of **Prepare for College**.
5. Read the **Online Education: What You Need to Know** article, and complete the following questions on this section of the worksheet:

- What is the definition of distance learning? ________________________________________________________________

- Are course requirements the same or different for distance learning versus on campus classes? ________________________________________________________________

- Name two types of technology you might need in order to attend a distance learning class:
  1. __________________________________________________________________
  2. __________________________________________________________________

- Before choosing a college or university, name five things you will want to consider:
  1. __________________________________________________________________
  2. __________________________________________________________________
  3. __________________________________________________________________
  4. __________________________________________________________________
  5. __________________________________________________________________

- Who should you contact to find out if you are eligible for financial aid for distance learning classes? ________________________________________________________________
• Who should you contact to find out if the credits you earn for distance learning courses will transfer to the college where you plan to earn your degree? ____________________________

• List two sources you could contact for answers to questions about distance learning course content or assignments.
  1. __________________________________________________________
  2. __________________________________________________________
Online Education: What You Need to Know

If your group was assigned the Online Education topic:

1. Sign in to your account on RUReady.ND.gov
2. Click the College Planning tab.
3. Click Prepare for College
4. Click Online Education: What You Need to Know in the Answers to Your College Questions box in the Getting Ready for College section of Prepare for College.
5. Read the Online Education: What You Need to Know article, and complete the following questions on this section of the worksheet:

- What is the definition of online, or e-learning, according to Dr. Pannekoek?
  Online education or e-learning refers to taking classes over the Internet.

- What is a hybrid or blended course? Hybrid or blended courses combine classroom instruction with online learning.

- Does Dr. Pannekoek believe that students retain what they learn better through regular classes, or through online classes? Dr. Pannekoek believes that students retain more and go through complex subjects more thoroughly through online classes.

- According to Dr. John Cassidy, the hybrid approach works better for some subjects. What example is used to illustrate a skill that you can only learn by doing it in a real-life lab? The example Dr. Cassidy gives is that of dissecting a frog. He says using the scalpel requires real-life practice.

- From the Advantages of Online Education section, list five advantages of online education: (Any five of the following nine are correct answers.)
  1. It makes education more accessible.
  2. People can do their coursework at any time, day or night.
  3. Students with a job can fit coursework around their schedule.
  4. Often you can get more specialized attention than in a regular school.
  5. If you are shy, you don’t have to speak up in a classroom.
  6. You don’t have to be afraid to ask questions in case you might look “stupid”.
  7. You may get an international experience if other classmates are from other countries.
  8. The material is sometimes very rich.
  9. Instructors can introduce links to other websites, video clips, pictures, Flash animations or any number of items that make the course more interesting.

- From the Disadvantages section, list three disadvantages of online education: Any three of the following five are correct answers.
  1. You need good reading and writing skills.
2. You need an internet-enabled computer and must be willing to learn to use it.
3. Slow internet connections could be a problem for some students.
4. Online education can be isolating.
5. If you do not like to communicate with words or symbols, or if you like to see your classmates and instructors and hear their voices, then you might find online education boring.

- In the **Scams and Fake Online Colleges** section, how many fake online colleges in the U. S. alone does Dr. Phillips’ company track? **200**
- Who should you check with to find out if the accreditation of an online school is real or fake? The U.S. Department of Education, or, the Council of Higher Education Accreditation.
- From the **Questions to Ask** section, list three questions you should ask a school before enrolling:
  1. **If you plan on transferring your credits to another school, ask for a list of schools that accept this school’s credits.**
  2. **If you are getting a high school diploma, check with your college ahead of time and ask if they will accept your diploma.**
  3. **Employers in one state might not recognize a degree granted in another state, because accreditation is up to each state.**

**Distance Learning**

If your group was assigned the Distance Learning topic:

1. Sign in to your account on [RUReady.ND.gov](https://RUReady.ND.gov)
2. Click the **College Planning** tab.
3. Click **Prepare for College**
4. Click **Distance Learning** in the **Answers to Your College Questions** box in the **Getting Ready for College** section of **Prepare for College**.
5. Read the **Online Education: What You Need to Know** article, and complete the following questions on this section of the worksheet:

- **What is the definition of distance learning?** Distance learning involves using the Internet, television, videocassettes or other media, so it is possible to learn from home.
- **Are course requirements the same or different for distance learning versus on campus classes?** Course requirements are the same for both distance-learning classes and courses offered on campus.
- **Name two types of technology you might need in order to attend a distance learning class:**
  1. **A computer with Internet access**
  2. **A television and perhaps cable TV.**
Before choosing a college or university, name five things you will want to consider:

Any five of the following seven are correct answers.

1. Costs.
2. The programs offered.
3. Location.
5. Size.
6. Academics.
7. Student Life.

Who should you contact to find out if you are eligible for financial aid for distance learning classes? Contact your college’s financial aid counsellor for details.

Who should you contact to find out if the credits you earn for distance learning courses will transfer to the college where you plan to earn your degree? Check with your college’s academic advisors for details.

List two sources you could contact for answers to questions about distance learning course content or assignments.

1. Contact your instructor.
2. Alternatively, contact the college’s distance education office.