



E-Learning at Waterloo Catholic District School Board

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know if E-Learning is the right option for me?

- a) Students must take face-to-face courses first, if available.
- b) Students must take WCDSB online courses before taking online courses with another board.
- c) E-Learning is not for everyone. The following characteristics have been identified of the successful E-Learner:
 - Self-discipline
 - Patience
 - Self-motivation
 - Communication
 - Asks questions
 - Knowledge of how e-learning works
 - Familiarity with the software
 - Time management
 - Ability to work independently
 - Ability to communicate with groups via distance
 - Active participation in the class
 - Being able to compromise and communicate effectively
 - Ability to multitask

2. What is expected of a student in an online learning environment?

The same rules that govern a regular class apply in an online class environment. Participation in class discussions and group activities is required. You must complete all assignments and meet deadlines for the submission of work. When you login to your online class, your teacher will make you aware of course policies, rules and procedures.

3. Where will the student be located when taking online courses?

In most cases, students will take eLearning courses from a computer / internet access point at school, though students could work on their e-courses from any computer / internet connection in the world.

4. Who teaches Waterloo CDSB online courses?

Certified teachers employed by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board will deliver the online courses. These teachers have been trained in the delivery and methodology of on-line instruction. The courses meet or exceed all Ministry of Education expectations and count for diploma purposes. Students should consult with guidance counselors to make sure that they have the proper prerequisites.



5. How will final marks be calculated?

Teachers will be required to assess students according to Ontario Ministry of Education requirements. Evaluation practices will be consistent with regular day school programming and will include a variety of assessments such as test, quizzes, assignments, essays, portfolios, on-line discussions, final evaluations, etc.

6. How many online courses can students take?

It is recommended that students requiring an eCourse option take a maximum of one eCourse in a semester. Some students, in rare circumstances, may be an exception. All course selections, whether day school, summer school, night school, or eLearning, should be approved by a student's guidance counselor. That person is qualified to help the student make good academic choices, balance course loads, and strive for academic success. No two students are the same, therefore, students are urged to make an appointment and consult with someone who can help them develop a personal plan.

7. How much computer expertise and skill does one need to be successful in an online course?

Students should be comfortable in the basics of using a computer such as creating, saving and printing MS Word documents / files, managing e-mail, using internet browsers, organizing folders etc.

8. How do I request enrolment into these courses?

Students should contact their home school guidance counselor who will provide them with the necessary information.

9. What technology guidelines / software applications are recommended to accompany Waterloo CDSB E-Learning?

The Waterloo CDSB recommends many standard software applications. To view a list of titles and technical requirements – please click on the following link - .

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/tech_sol.html#desktop

10. Where can I find out more about E-Learning in Ontario?

There are informative e-learning webinars for parents and students posted on the ministry of education E-Learning Ontario web site on the following link -

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/webinars_calendar.html

11. Who is the primary contact for eLearning at the Waterloo CDSB?

Michael Redfearn is the District E-Learning Contact for the board and can be reached at:

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