**ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES of OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING?**

There are advantages and disadvantages of studying ‘in-class’ and ‘off-campus’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>ADVANTAGES?</th>
<th>DISADVANTAGES?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **IN-CLASS** (SAME TIME - SAME PLACE) | - Most people have experience with this mode  
- Students are often most comfortable in settings they have experience with  
- Students can see each other's eyes, facial expressions, body language or hear voice inflections and tones during communication  
- Students can participate in activities in laboratories and studios under direction of the instructor  
- Feedback to questions and issues raised in class is immediate; face-to-face interaction with no delays in communication occurs  
- Technical skills with a microcomputer and related software are not needed except as they relate directly to course material  
- Audio and/or visual media delivery is not limited by current computer technology | - Everyone in the course must gather in the same place  
- Everyone in the course must gather at the same time  
- Some students would need to leave employment, families, and community responsibilities to attend classes  
- Some students do not actively participate in class activities, choosing to be passive, although present, learners |
| **OFF-CAMPUS** (ANY TIME - ANY PLACE) | - Students do not need to unduly disrupt critical parts of lives - employment, family life, community responsibilities - to travel to campus  
- Students can fit course work into their own schedules at times that work best for them  
- Some students communicate best in an indirect mode  
- Sharing of work may be more easily accomplished; e.g., drafts of student works can more easily be shared with lecturer through electronic communication (i.e. email)  
- Different learning styles and disabilities may be easier to accommodate; self pacing of learning is facilitated  
- Students with industry knowledge should excel | - Visual and hearing cues during communication are reduced or absent; limited reading and writing skills may reduce communication effectiveness  
- Requires self-direction and self-motivation to attend to the course work  
- Students need instructor assistance to feel a part of a "course community" in this mode  
- Providing laboratory and studio experiences for students may be more challenging  
- Hardware and software requirements and related skills may limit access for some students  
- Feedback to questions and comments is delayed |


Use this information to help decide which mode of learning best suits you. Course materials and support are provided to assist with the off-campus mode of learning for students in both metropolitan and regional areas.

**Central TAFE recommends in-class learning where possible in order to maximise the effectiveness of the course objectives and student outcomes.**