



CLASSROOM VS. ONLINE LEARNING A Practical Comparison

TISOH offers classes in traditional classroom format as well as online.

In the past, there has been a stigma attached to online education in that it is an easy way of gaining an undervalued education. With years of testing and validation, such a perception is truly in the past. Most schools now offer online education allowing for an efficient and effective way for students to learn. Busy lifestyles and career demands have helped online education grow in popularity.



So what are the benefits of online learning? Here is a quick synopsis.

Time

- Online learning saves time as travel time is eliminated
- Learn at their own pace- more time to study and learn the material
- There is minimum impact to current work commitments

Personal Learning

- Instructors teach on a one-on-one format with more time to communicate with each student

Access

- Students can study *whenever* is convenient to them
- Students can study *wherever* is convenient to them, whether it is in the comfort of their own home, or anywhere they choose
- Better access to tutors – students can contact them at any time



Which type of learning is more suitable for you? Here is a comparison chart for your review.

	CLASSROOM	ONLINE
Logistics	-Location and periods are set	-Course materials are always available -Classes take place whenever the participant desires -Easy to go back and forth between classes
Pace	-Set pace defined by the instructor based on past experience	-Participants proceed at their own pace
Lectures	-Presented orally to a group at the same time	-Same as in class with the luxury of a rewind feature
Personal Attention	-Group learning-instructor must accommodate the entire class	-One on one learning where the instructor adjusts the class and learning pace to a single participant's needs
Discussions	-Often occur and add to interaction in the classroom. May be monopolized by only a few students if not effectively facilitated. Sensitive topics may discourage participation. Many instructors opt for lectures instead of discussions.	-When available, is offered in a written format and in an asynchronous manner.
Learning Materials	-Set by the instructor	-Identical to classroom learning
Assignments/Assessments	-Set by the instructor	-Identical to classroom learning
Preference	-Some participants prefer the social aspect of a classroom setting. These participants typically enjoy the live interaction with an instructor. They are more successful when learning is highly structured and presented in real time.	-Some participants are busy with work, daily life and thus prefer the flexibility of online learning. These participants need to have the will power and dedication to stick to their own schedule.

In conclusion, classroom vs. online learning is purely a decision based on personal preference and situational requirements. Both are well accepted and offered without differentiation as the learning materials and requirements are identical.