Thank you for joining us today! This webinar will help you to better understand the SmarterMeasure assessment and help you get started in your online course. **Smarter Measure** is an assessment available in all ELI courses. If you want to discuss your results, ELI Success Coaches are available at [ELISuccess@nvcc.edu](mailto:ELISuccess@nvcc.edu) or 703.764.5076.
In today’s presentation, we will cover:
What is the SmarterMeasure Assessment?
How to access the assessment.
How to re-enter the site.
How to send your results to your instructor.
What you will learn about yourself.
We use SmarterMeasure as a tool to help new and potential students gauge their readiness for online learning. Students thinking about taking an ELI course can gain access to the tool and instructors use the tool to help students get started in their course. The assessment is not graded and will have no impact on enrollment in courses. Be honest with yourself as you answer the questions in each of the sections. The results will give you feedback about your strengths and challenges for online learning courses. The results will give you techniques to help you succeed in your courses and is meant to give you a good overall assessment of your readiness.
If you are enrolled in an ELI course and have access to your Blackboard course site, you can find the information to access the assessment in the Welcome section of the course. If not, you can find information about accessing the assessment on the main ELI website.
Once you log into the Smarter Measure Assessment web page on ELI’s website, you will be prompted to select a username from the drop down menu. If you don’t have a username and password, email ELICounselors@nvcc.edu for access. There is also a Guest Username/Password in the Welcome section of every Blackboard Course Site. The assessment will take about 30 minutes to complete, but if you need to stop in the middle, you can pick up where you left off.
If you need to take a break in the middle of the assessment, you can re-enter the site with the pin that will be sent to the email you registered with. Once you are in the site, you will fill out your information. Once you enter your email, you will be sent an automatic email that you started the assessment and it will include a pin number. The pin number can be used to re-enter the site. Remember what email address you used when you registered so you can access
If you are taking the assessment as part of your course and need to send the results to your instructor there are two ways to do that. You can download the results and upload them to the assignment area of your Blackboard course site (preferred for class assignments). If you are working with an instructor or advisor outside of class, you can send the results as an attachment in an email or you can send an email directly from SmarterMeasure. There is a place to add a message and also blind copy yourself so you know the email was sent.

If this is a requirement for more than one course, you only need to take the assessment once and send the results the separate instructors.

If this is an assignment for your class, your instructor will ask you to submit your results directly into the assignment link in Blackboard. If you choose to email your instructor, go back and submit them in Blackboard as well so you don’t miss any points. Here is a guide to submitting an assignment in Blackboard.
The assessment covers 6 competences that are relevant to online learning. These sections are broken up and are mostly multiple choice questions. The typing speed has you type up a statement for your results. Be honest with yourself for the best results, and once you get your results, you can read through tips to help you improve.

**Life Factors:** Many students strongly desire to continue their education. However, often other situations in life prevent them from being able to do so. The Life Factors section of SmarterMeasure asks questions about other elements in your life that may impact your ability to continue your education. The section measures five items: Time, Place, Reason, Resources, and Skills.

You may be able to modify circumstances which impact some of these life skills. If so, you are encouraged to take appropriate action to help yourself succeed. But some of the circumstances in life may be beyond your control. If this is the case, being aware of these realities and planning accordingly may be beneficial for you. The ELI staff offer several webinars throughout the semester to help you succeed in your ELI Courses. You might be interested in participating in the GOALS: Guiding Online Adult Learners to Success series. To find the live and recorded sessions, click [here](#).

**Individual Attributes:** This section measures six items: time management, procrastination, persistence, academic attributes, locus of control, and willingness to ask for help. These attributes can be enhanced or improved through academic
interventions. Ask your faculty member or academic advisor about the resources for remediation and/or support which your school may provide.

The ELI Counselors holds a “How to Succeed in Distance Learning Courses” webinar throughout the semester. They focus on time management to help you succeed in your classes. To find the live and recorded sessions, click here.

**Learning Styles:** People learn differently. Some people are very comfortable reading large amounts of text, while others are more comfortable listening to someone speak or writing things down for themselves. A person's preferred *learning style* is the approach to learning that feels most natural to them. It is based on a combination of their experiences, strengths, weaknesses, and preferences.

Everyone has a mix of learning styles, and some people have strong, dominant learning styles. There are no "right" or "wrong" learning styles. Most people tend to adapt their learning style to the context of learning. With practice a person can strengthen themselves in the learning styles that are least comfortable for them. When a person recognizes the learning styles that work best for them, they can then make a better informed decision about the ways that they approach learning new things.

**Technical Competency, Skills, and Knowledge:** In order to participate in class, a student must have some way to get to the classroom. A student in a traditional class may drive a car on a highway to attend class, but a student in an online course "drives" a computer on the Internet (the Information Highway) to "attend" class. Technical competency is important, but if you do not score high in this area, don’t worry! The ability to comfortably learn is what is most important. You will want to gain comfort in navigating the blackboard course site so you can submit assignments, post on the discussion board and select folders so you don’t miss any course work.

A multitude of resources exist on the internet. Those listed in the technical competency summary are just a small sample of what is available in terms of information or tutorials on the topics focused on in SmarterMeasure. Some of these sites are free; a few require a subscription or fee. To find more or different information beyond these sites, feel free to perform your own web search.

**Reading Recall:** The average adult reading rate for English prose text in the United States is around 250 to 300 words per minute. Research shows that reading is around 25% slower from a computer screen than from paper. Thus you may slightly increase your results to find your speed when reading from paper.

**Typing Speed and Accuracy:** A student does not have to be an expert typist to succeed
in a course. However, the faster you can type and the fewer errors you make will impact your ability to participate in your courses.

The average workplace typist reaches about 50 to 60 words per minute. The average web surfer comes in at around 30 words per minute, at a peak. Many courses require you to type as you participate in discussion boards, email the instructor, and compose papers. If you type slower than about 20 words per minute, you should consider using a resource such as www.learn2type.com. This resource is the leading FREE Web site that helps you master the skills of touch typing. Whether you're a typing expert or just a "hunt & peck" beginner, the interactive exercises in this Typing Tutor automatically adjust to your skill level. The better you get, the more challenging the typing exercises become. You can come and go as you please and pick up the typing lesson where you left off.
Remember, your results will show you your strengths and challenges! Your results will help you prepare and succeed in your courses, so answer honestly. You will see the summary, and then you can click on each link to get more information to improve. You can log back in and access your results at anytime with the pin number sent to you in your email.
Thank you for joining us! Let us know if you have any questions. If you want to discuss your results, ELI Success Coaches are available at ELISuccess@nvcc.edu or 703.764.5076.

For more information about each competency, you can view the transcript of this presentation which is listed on the webinar page or visit the ELI Student Blog and search SmarterMeasure.