

E-Learning on the Goal Paths

Resources and activities to build self-efficacy

Digital Technologies E-Bulletin

MARCH 2014

In the first e-bulletin, *OALCF Goal Paths and E-learning*, we took a general and preliminary look at e-learning requirements and opportunities in each of the Goal Paths. This time around we want to focus on activities those instructors and learners can use to develop skills and build computer self-efficacy.

The concept of self-efficacy provides a useful framework in which adult literacy practitioners can develop learning activities that will provide students with the means to gain mastery in the area of e-learning, whichever goal path they decide to pursue.

Research shows that anxiety about computer use has an influence on students' perceptions of their ability

to learn online and that computer self-efficacy plays an important role in mediating anxiety when people are confronted with unfamiliar interfaces and online learning systems.

In the adult literacy field the key elements that support students in achieving self-efficacy are well known and in general practice in programs:

- setting appropriate goals
- providing feedback to learners to assist them in understanding how to succeed
- monitoring progress

[Learn more about self-efficacy >](#)

Finding resources from which instructors can build digital learning and practice activities in each of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF) goal paths can be very time-consuming. To help you save some time we have created a [Live Binder](#).



A Live Binder is a “three-ring binder on the web” – a web-based repository of live links – and is a very handy way to keep links organized by topic or theme.

The Live Binder we created, *E-Learning on the Goal Paths*, is organized by Goal Path and under each tab you will find direct links to informational and learning activity sites. One of the key elements in building self-efficacy is practice – the opportunity to practice a skill until it is mastered.

Our hope is that the *E-Learning on the Goal Paths* Live Binder will help you to quickly retrieve sites that will allow students to easily access information about their chosen goal path, while practicing some of digital skills they will need for employment, further education and in daily life.



Employment

[Visit the Live Binder >](#)

Students on the Employment goal path will benefit from experience in learning online as they may be required to participate in online orientation and training programs in the workplace, many of which involve watching training videos and answering questions or taking quizzes. To sharpen this skill it is helpful to have lots of experience watching videos and answering questions to demonstrate understanding and to get comfortable dealing with screen distractions. We have found links to some employment-related sites where students can practice these skills while learning about job and essential skills.

Apprenticeship

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Students on the Apprenticeship goal path need information about the process of preparing for and entering an Apprenticeship program. We have found links to accurate up-to-date information to help instructors and students navigate the Apprenticeship system. In the Apprenticeship goal path, students will also attend community college programs and will likely be expected to use a range of digital technologies to learn, to research, to communicate with instructors, to access library materials, and to submit assignments in the classroom portion of their pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training.

Secondary School Credit

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Students on the Secondary School Credit may need to use the internet for research and will likely need to use a word-processing program for assignments. If a student decides to pursue a secondary school diploma online, she/he will need to be comfortable in an e-learning environment, using email for assignments and communication, downloading materials, and doing some on-the fly tech problem solving. We have included links to sites where students can learn about online learning, self-assess their online skills and practice their information literacy skills.

Post-Secondary

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Students on the Post-Secondary goal path will be expected to use a range of digital technologies and devices to learn, to research, to communicate with instructors, to access library materials and to submit assignments. In a community college, students will need to be comfortable in a digital environment, including online application processes, social media and databases in order to participate fully in college life. We have included links to sites where students can practice some of the skills they need, and links to sites about Ontario community colleges and success strategies for college students.

Independence

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Students on the Independence goal path will need to learn about, use and become comfortable with digital devices and digital technology that we use every day. To succeed, learners need to develop internet search skills, information literacy skills, and online reading skills. The key to developing these skills is exposure and practice. We have included links to support students to acquire and practice skills, including basic keyboarding, information literacy, and online reading.