

LIFT OFF LEARNING SKILLS (LOLS) Syllabus 2021

We all know that studying in Higher Education is not the same as studying at school. Regardless of whether it's an HNC or HND at college, or going straight into the first year of a degree at university, the way subjects are taught – and the way in which students learn – are very different.

LIFT OFF Learning Skills has been created by LIFT OFF using advice from our partner schools, colleges and universities to help to make moving from school to Higher Education easier for senior phase pupils. It looks at some of the key areas where learning is different and gives pupils a chance to practice some of the key skills that they'll need for learning in Higher Education.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding and expanded knowledge of the role and value of HE, and how this differs from previous learning experiences;
2. Undertake self-reflection and set meaningful and realistic goals within the context of improving learning skills;
3. Develop and practise some of the higher level skills associated with learning in HE;
4. Plan, design and deliver a group presentation.

This module carries 3 credit points at SCQF level 6. For more information see: www.scqf.org.uk

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

This module is designed to develop the following transferable skills:

- Communication skills, including presenting findings virtually and discussion participation.
- Self-management skills, including planning, study skills, organisation, working under pressure, meeting deadlines.
- Interpersonal skills, including communication through digital platform group and remote work.
- Academic skills, including critical and analytical skills, problem solving, creativity, academic essay writing, literacy and numeracy skills.
- Taking responsibility for personal learning requirements.

CLASSES

Classes will take the form of a mixture of 1-hour workshops delivered on a COVID-19 appropriate, virtual platform, self-directed independent study supported with digital resources and a virtually hosted group presentation delivery:

- 8 x 1 hour academic workshops hosted on our virtual platform MS Teams.
- 1 x 2-hour assessment session facilitated via MS Teams.
- Further on-line support available via LIFT OFF LOLS 2021 Classroom.

ASSESSMENT

LOLS is run on a pass or fail basis. To pass the module participants must successfully complete three pieces of assessment.

- (i) Individual involvement and participation (Learning Outcomes 1 & 2)
- (ii) A reflective learning log (Learning Outcomes 1 & 3)
- (iii) A group presentation (Learning Outcomes 3 & 4)

Further details on these assessments can be found below.

CONTACT

Please feel free to contact LIFT OFF for any questions, comments or concerns you may have on the module: lift.off@abertay.ac.uk

The LIFT OFF team and class teachers will also be keen to help in any way they can.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1A and 1B: Applications and Admissions

These workshops ask students to consider and reflect on their own intentions for HE study. You will explore the admissions process and develop your understanding of what is required when applying. It will also cover how to research the correct courses for you, college articulation routes and what has to be included in a good personal statement.

Workshop 2A and 2B: Life in Higher Education

These workshops explore the differences between life and study at school and at Higher Education. You will complete activities surrounding what you can expect at university or college and some of the skills needed that differ from school learning; such as analysing a journal article, referencing and note taking. We will also consider the self-planning and management skills required to succeed in HE.

Workshop 3A and 3B: Academic writing skills

These workshops explore the variety of writing techniques with a particular focus on reflective and academic writing practice. This session will cover the importance of logical flow and structure, as well as how to critically analyse and evaluate sources of information. This

session will also cover how to fully edit a piece of academic writing and explore techniques for presenting academic persuasive arguments.

Workshop 4A and 4B: Working Together and presenting findings

These workshops explore group working and how to present findings. We will look at the different roles required in groups, the different skills and abilities needed to work together, and the kind of organisational skill needed to maintain an effective team. During this workshop, students will begin to prepare and develop a group presentation, on a set topic from the course. You will consider the skills and abilities needed to present at a Higher Education level. LIFT OFF will help and assist you in designing the presentation

Final assessment: Putting into Practice

This session is where students will present their group presentations for assessment and submit their learning logs. You will also have the chance to ask any questions and offer pupil feedback on the LOLS course to help us develop the programme for future cohorts.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

There are three pieces of assessment for LOLS. Passing the module requires receiving a pass for each assessment.

1. INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION

Students will be assessed on their contribution to, and participation in, the module. Attendance, participation in discussion, listening skills, preparedness and behaviour will all be evidenced as part of the assessment. These skills are crucial in achieving success in Higher Education, and are increasingly forming part of the assessment process for modules at University and College.

LIFT OFF advice: “participation” doesn’t just mean doing a lot of talking. Listening, reflecting and being well-prepared are all crucial elements of this assessment too.

2. REFLECTIVE LEARNING LOG

Students must complete a reflective learning log at the end of each session, and submit the completed log at the end of the module. These ask the students to consider their own learning, strengths and weaknesses, and how this might impact their future work. This kind of reflective awareness is needed to develop Higher Learning.

LIFT OFF advice: reflective learning and development are difficult tasks, something we all need to work on. This piece of assessment is individual by nature, so may well look different for different people. The important part of this assessment is in your demonstrating a genuine effort to reflect on your experiences, strengths and weaknesses.

3. GROUP PRESENTATION

In groups of 4 or 5, students must design, develop and deliver a group presentation. This will be assessed by LIFT OFF via the MS Teams platform after the workshop delivery. Students will be assessed on the structure, content, quality of communication, and evaluation aspect of their presentations. Such presentations are commonplace in Higher Education. The topic for 2021 is:

TITLE: ‘Discuss and evaluate the positive and negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth mental health.’

-Each member of the group must make a substantial contribution to the presentation, speaking for between 4 to 6 minutes each. Note that the **minimum** contribution in order to pass this element is **4 minutes**.

-You will be expected to use visual aids (e.g. PowerPoint) when delivering your presentation.

-You will need to work well together to agree the content, structure and delivery method of the presentation.

-The question specifically asks for *evaluation* of the material and not just explanation. You will be expected to give a reasoned opinion and draw rational conclusions. The information has sections where questions are raised: these are a good starting point for evaluation.

-Don't panic! In the final workshop you will have time to prepare the presentation, discuss with the LIFT OFF team, and practice delivering materials.