

A GUIDE TO

# ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES POST PANDEMIC

What undergraduate students should know  
and how to stay on track amid COVID-19.



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**Education** *moving* **FORWARD**

# Online Bachelor's Degrees Post Pandemic

What undergraduate students should know and how to stay on track amid COVID-19.

*In a post-pandemic world, what does higher education look like?*



While it's too soon to identify the long-term effects, it's abundantly clear the landscape for undergraduates has changed dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to shift over time.

Current and prospective students' plans are changing, as are their priorities. Many who thought they knew exactly where they were going in the fall are now reconsidering, and cost, safety, and flexibility are far more significant factors than before.

The pandemic has led to increased interest in online learning because of social distancing and other advantages of the modality, such as flexibility, affordability, and stability.

This guide, created by online learning experts, is for anyone facing college decisions soon: graduating high school seniors, transfer students, undergraduates who are rethinking plans, non-traditional students, and parents and guardians of college students.

It's intended to provide an in-depth look at the role of online education in a post-pandemic world — and the opportunities for students to find stability as they pursue academic goals in the midst of uncertainty.

Above all, prospective students need to know their options and understand the ways a robust online degree program will keep their education moving forward.



## The Difference Between Online Degree Programs and Emergency Virtual Instruction

COVID-19 forced students online, but poor learning experiences are not indicative of proven online degree programs.

In spring 2020, as schools, colleges, and universities abruptly closed their campuses in response to COVID-19, they had to scramble to implement virtual instruction to finish the school year. Undoubtedly, this transition represented the best efforts of school administrators and teachers facing a crisis — but despite those efforts, the overall quality of instruction suffered. Students were left feeling understandably disillusioned.

For a huge percentage of high school seniors, current undergraduates, transfer students, and others who planned to make an enrollment decision to attend college in the fall, the spring 2020 emergency virtual instruction may be their only exposure to any form of online learning. Virtual instruction prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in forming false perceptions about the integrity of online learning. Overnight, a widespread view emerged that online learning is a backup plan — better than nothing in an emergency, but not as good as an on-ground education with face-to-face instruction.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

In reality, an established online degree program is radically different from ad hoc emergency virtual instruction. In order to make informed decisions, students who are weighing their options need to understand how degree programs that were designed to be delivered online work.

## **In-person programs were not prepared to move online.**

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, there was a rapid scramble for educators to move online with limited resources and little opportunity to prepare — all at a moment when students, parents, and faculty were also facing numerous personal and professional difficulties.

COVID-19 made it clear that many K–12 schools lacked sufficient plans to serve students if a crisis interrupted traditional teaching methods. Likewise, universities and colleges rushed to find a way to move their on-ground programs into an online format. Even higher ed institutions with a proven track record in online learning had to navigate unique challenges.

While this shift represented the best efforts of teachers, administrators, and students, the result was frustrating: endless questions, concerns, and confusion about assignments, due dates, and expectations. For many families, online learning tools were rolled out quickly, with different systems and expectations for students at different grade levels or various programs.

Moreover, most of the tools used during the crisis were intended primarily for business meetings (e.g., Zoom), rather than dedicated learning management systems built solely for online learning. The level of student support, engagement, and assessment teachers were able to deliver in this format was limited.

*The whole experience fell far short of what students needed. But that's not the case in a planned, organized online degree program.*



## Online degree programs are built with student success in mind.

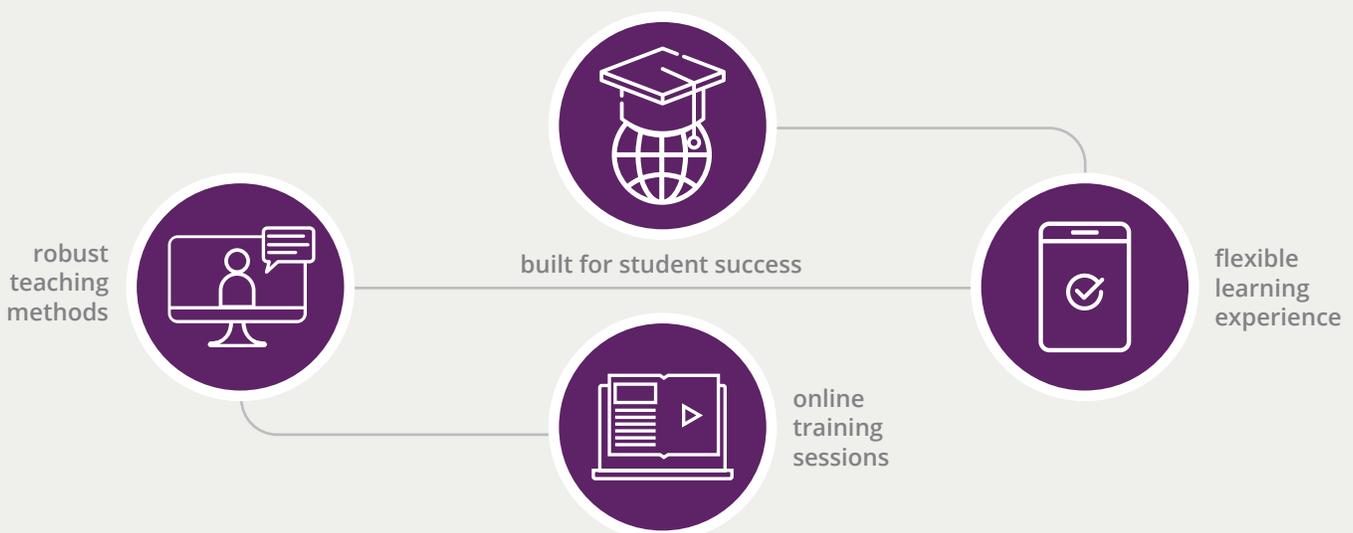
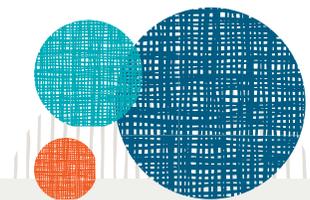
An online degree program may have superficial similarities to emergency virtual instruction, but they are very different. Unlike programs that are launched quickly or created during a crisis, the best online courses are developed in advance by experienced faculty and course designers over the course of several months — and optimized, using well-studied best practices, for the distributed, technology-mediated online learning process.

Classes that suddenly went online as a result of COVID-19 weren't intended, nor designed, to be taught this way. They were an improvised experience delivered by and for people who didn't choose to attend school online and who had little support or prior experience in it.

Most online degree programs adhere to an asynchronous learning approach. This model allows students to access course materials, lectures, and complete assignments on their schedule while adhering to some fixed deadlines and due dates. This provides a highly flexible learning experience that is resilient against changes to a student's schedule, living conditions, or even infrastructure.

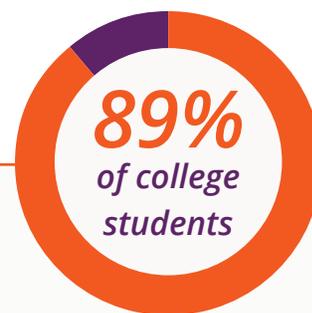
Unlike emergency virtual instruction in which students had to familiarize themselves with the learning environment on the fly, online programs are built to help students expedite their technology learning curve, allowing them to focus entirely on course content and positioning them for long-term academic success. Many online programs offer introductory training sessions to help students become familiar with the online learning environment (often referred to as the learning management system or LMS).

Due to the number of schools transitioning to virtual instruction during the pandemic, there was widespread confusion and misinformation about which online tools are best suited for different circumstances. Overnight, classroom teachers had to research which teaching methods were most effective online and how courses should be structured. Teachers and administrators were learning how to teach online as they experienced the crisis. Online degree programs, in contrast, are based on extensive and carefully organized research and experience, with carefully selected tools and teaching methods built to maximize student engagement and outcomes.



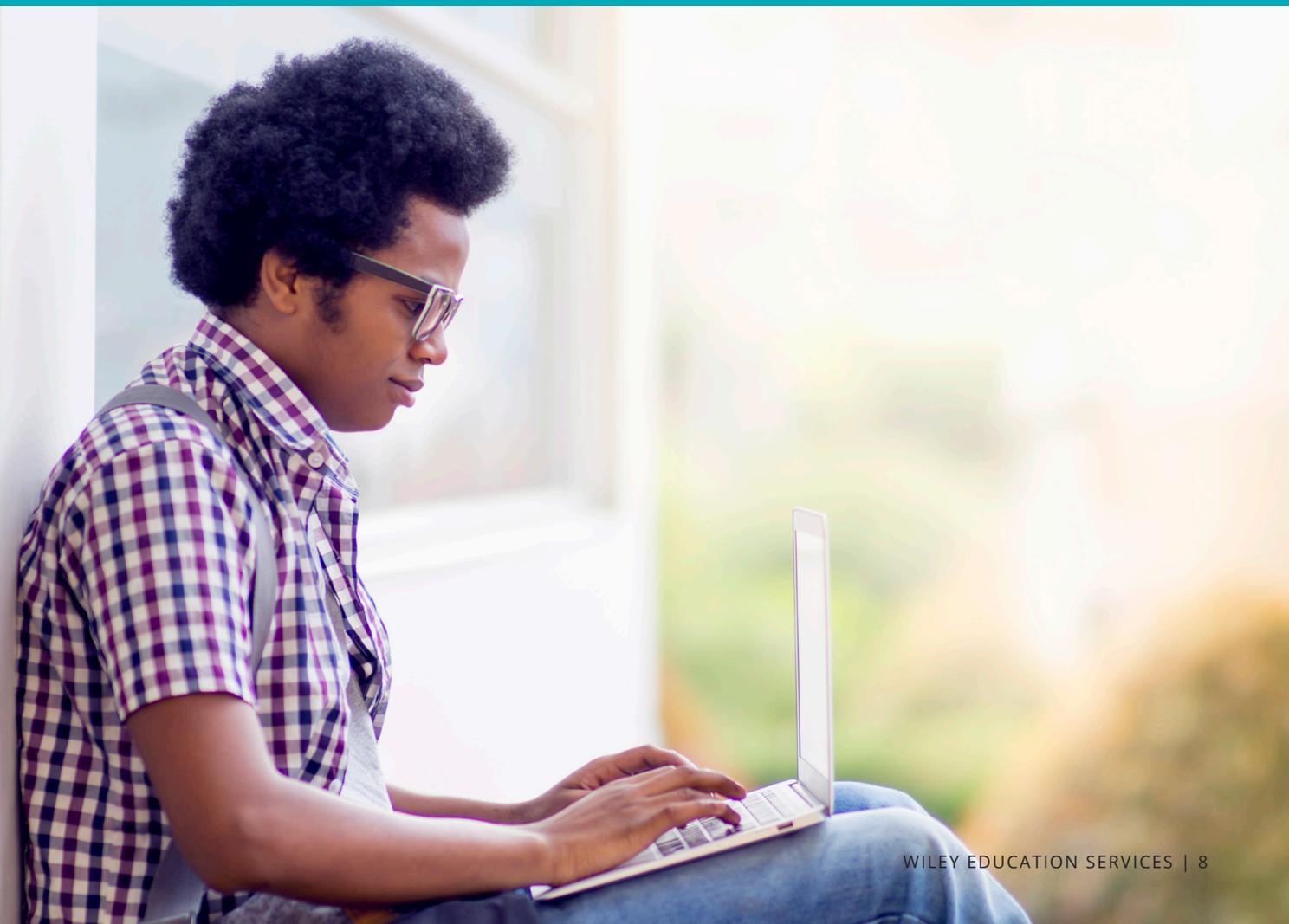
**The key takeaway:** when courses are designed and taught from the beginning with online learning in mind, there is no loss of educational quality. In a 2019 survey, the overwhelming majority (89%) of college students<sup>1</sup> with experience in both online and in-classroom learning stated their online instruction was the same quality as — or better than — education they gained from a traditional classroom.

Due to the pandemic, millions of American students have experienced the plan B version of online learning. The evidence is clear: this is not at all comparable to established online education programs.



*with experience in both online and in-classroom learning stated their online instruction was the same quality as — or better than — education they gained from a traditional classroom.*

When courses are **DESIGNED and taught** from the beginning with **ONLINE LEARNING** in mind, there is **no loss of educational quality.**





## COVID-19 Has Changed Student Priorities and How They Evaluate Schools

Online degree programs check all the boxes.

While it's hard to overstate the sense of loss caused by missed commencement ceremonies or canceled sports and activities, a bigger long-term consequence of COVID-19 is its impact on students' future plans.

Anyone who was planning to attend college on campus in the fall, from graduating high school seniors to current undergraduates and transfer students, has experienced some level of disruption. Because of the timing and school closures, they're largely on their own, with limited support from guidance counselors, advisors, or teachers. It's up to students (and their parents) to figure out what's next.

*So, what are they concerned about?*

*What are their top priorities in a post-pandemic world?*

## AFFORDABILITY

Due to the pandemic, millions of students have seen one or both of their parents furloughed, laid off, or working for a reduced salary. In this environment, the cost of a college education — not just tuition, but also room and board, transportation, meal plans, and other associated expenses — is particularly daunting.

Moreover, even families that haven't lost income *yet* are now keenly aware of the possibility of future income loss. As jobs seem less secure and the overall state of the economy appears uncertain, the prospect of taking on debt is frightening. Students and parents want to know how to pay for college without loans.

***Enter the option of online degree programs.***

Online degree programs are more affordable because there is no cost for room and board, meal plans, transportation costs, and so on. Moreover, asynchronous learning gives students more options to work or take on family obligations (e.g. childcare), helping the entire family's finances. Students who juggle those commitments find themselves in good company: the Wiley Education Services *Online College Students 2019* study found the majority of online degree program students were also employed full-time.<sup>2</sup>

For students who plan to leverage federal aid assistance via federal student loans this year will benefit from the lowest interest rates in history. A recent CNN article stated that undergraduates can expect a 2.75% interest rate on a Federal Direct Stafford loan this academic year, down from 4.53% during the past school year.<sup>3</sup>

## FLEXIBILITY

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, colleges had to adapt quickly. Schools that primarily focus on on-campus instruction had to make a rushed transition to emergency virtual instruction (with mixed results). As lockdown orders went into effect, schools emptied dorms (many earning backlash from students and parents), and their ability to proactively communicate with students was tested.

In the wake of the pandemic, students are considering changing their plans, whether that means matriculating at a different school, transferring, or even taking a gap year. For instance, a March 2020 Plexuss survey<sup>4</sup> found that over half of college-bound seniors say they're more likely than before to stay closer to home, even after the pandemic ends — and more than a third of current undergraduates aren't sure whether they'll stay at their current colleges.

Online degree programs are more flexible because a learning management system (LMS) translates courses across digital devices (laptop, tablet, mobile). This allows students to turn almost any location into a classroom, from a beach to a coffee shop to their own bedroom. Moreover, established online learning programs have well-practiced methods for communicating with students proactively and over long distances, and they experienced comparatively little disruption due to COVID-19.

## SAFETY

Safety is a top consideration at the moment for nearly every U.S. resident, and prospective and current college students are no exception. A college campus — where students pack into dormitories, crowd into lecture halls, and come and go frequently — is a difficult place to maintain social distancing or slow the spread of an infectious disease.

Online degree programs allow students to maintain social distancing and keep up with their studies even when quarantined or self-isolating. This truly is the gold standard of safety — without sacrificing the quality of education — in a post-pandemic world.



## **For many students, the solution is online**

Graduating seniors, current undergraduates, and transfer students are assessing their options, and rightly so. For many, the right path is to pursue their college education online; the advantages of online learning are in many ways perfect for this moment.

If there's a silver lining to the current situation, it's the way innovators are using technology to raise the bar for flexibility, affordability, and accessibility. Online education is not a new phenomenon, and colleges and universities that have been doing this successfully know how to deliver a true college experience within the context of online learning.

This option, particularly now, should be (and increasingly is) very much on students' radar.



***Post COVID-19 There's a High Importance  
On Bachelor's Programs That Are***

**AFFORDABLE**

**FLEXIBLE**

**ACCESSIBLE**



## Online Degree Programs: Safer, Stable, More Affordable

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt higher ed, online degree programs shine as a more suitable alternative.

Let's talk about online education vs. traditional education.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, prospective and current undergraduate students have shifting priorities. Some universal considerations rise to the top: safety, stability, and affordability.

*So how does online education meet those critical needs?*

Exceptionally well.

## The safety advantages of online learning

To begin with the obvious: it's not possible to spread COVID-19 or any other physical illness online. The traditional college campus has students packed into lecture halls and people coming and going from campus 24 hours a day. Dormitories often mean shared living spaces, entryways, and bathrooms, making controlling one's own physical space challenging. This is an environment where diseases can spread quickly.

Online degree programs, of course, eliminate those risks entirely. Perhaps even more important than the inherent safety advantage of the online model is the freedom it gives students to take control of their safety.

The online learning model, with its portable and time-flexible elements, empowers students to determine their schedules and study environment — which means, in particular, that they can make individual decisions about acceptable risks and appropriate safety precautions.

Many of the safety precautions individuals and businesses are taking during COVID-19 involve tradeoffs. The power of traditional online learning, programs with content and assignment that are optimized for the online modality, is that *there is no tradeoff* in terms of academic quality.

Online degree programs deliver the same curriculum, often taught by the same faculty, as on-campus programs. Online students have access to the same resources (such as career services) and are able to visit campus if needed. The modality of day-to-day study is different, but online degree programs are built from the ground up to utilize the advantages of the modality and deliver an academic experience that matches or exceeds the quality of education in the classroom.

## Online degree programs deliver stability

College has always been a refuge for young adults to find stability and opportunities for growth during difficult times. As we enter a post-pandemic world, online degree programs bring college students the chance to control their destiny.

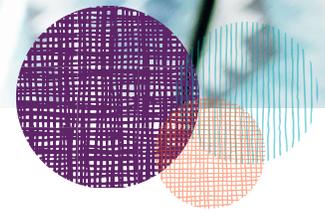
Overnight, the COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the operational continuity within universities and academic institutions. The arrival of the pandemic brought confusion to students and administrators alike, resulting in extreme disruption. Students lost their sense of stability. It's hard to overstate the impact this had on students' views of and trust in their institutions. As a March 2020 Plexuss survey put it:



***6 in 10 current college students are “Very Dissatisfied” or “Dissatisfied” by how their institution has handled COVID-19 so far. Many told us this could impact whether they continue at a particular college or university.***



**ONLINE CLASSES** allow students to **MAKE *their own schedules*** and to **REDUCE *their total debt***.



Meanwhile, online degree programs exhibited high operational resilience and experienced little — if any — disruption. For an online degree program, content is already developed, and lectures are scheduled to launch right at the beginning of the semester. During a crisis, professors may need to alter due dates, modify or augment some content, and adjust expectations, but otherwise, online courses continue as planned.

## Online degree programs address affordability concerns

Even before COVID-19, cost was a top priority for prospective college students. Indeed, the 2019 Wiley Education *Online College Students* survey found that affordability was **the top factor** for students considering an undergraduate program.<sup>5</sup> Now, as students and families face unemployment, furloughs, salary reduction, and overall economic uncertainty, finding ways to pay for college has become more complicated — but online students have substantially more options.

As a rule, the tuition cost per credit tends to be the same regardless of modality; however, tuition is only one of the costs (and sometimes not even the highest cost) involved in pursuing an on-campus college education. Going to college on campus means paying for housing, meal plans, transportation, and more. Another hidden expense is the opportunity cost of losing the flexibility to work and earn income.

Because online classes allow students to customize their schedules, they have flexibility to work part-time or full-time to earn additional income, or take on responsibilities at home, such as childcare, in order to help the family's overall finances. Online degree programs open the door for college students to become net revenue producers and reduce the total debt they and their families incur while furthering their education. This also means it's quicker and easier to reach the break-even point on an educational investment.

Some students may be (understandably) concerned that taking on those additional responsibilities, while helpful financially, may put them at a disadvantage academically compared to their peers. But juggling school, work, and family responsibilities is the rule, not the exception, for online students. A [U.S. News survey](#) of students in ranked online undergraduate programs, for example, found that 84% of those online students were employed.

## College students have the opportunity to control their destiny

Online degree programs have delivered a safer, more stable, and more affordable experience for a long time, and the pandemic has shone a spotlight on those advantages. College students need programs that can adapt to changing circumstances, and for many, the solution is online.





## Before You Consider a Gap Year, Consider an Online Degree

Many students may think a gap year is the only choice, but is it the *right* choice?

*“Is it worth it for me to go to college?”*

More importantly, is it worth it for me to go to college now? That’s the question many students like [San Francisco senior Kyra Kushner](#) have amid the COVID-19 pandemic. <sup>6</sup> They’re unsure whether they’ll get the experience they’re paying for and have been looking forward to — and their experiences with emergency virtual instruction make them leery of the prospect of remote learning.

COVID-19 has forced plans to change. Incoming freshmen and transfer students alike have started to reassess their original enrollment decisions, with many placing a greater emphasis on factors like cost and stability. Other students are rethinking plans for the fall altogether, including delaying their enrollment and taking a gap year.

***Nearly a quarter of prospective students are considering deferring enrollment to their preferred school by at least a semester or more, and some have even declined to apply to college at all, saying they’ll just wait until next year.<sup>7</sup>***



Certainly, the prospect of taking a year off has an inherent appeal. But it's important for these prospective students to consider the potential hidden consequences of their decision carefully. What makes sense today could be problematic tomorrow.

## What does a gap year during a pandemic look like, anyway?

One classic reason to plan a gap year is to travel, see the world, and pursue enrichment opportunities before starting college — learning through self-discovery. It's probable, though, that COVID-19 will significantly curtail international travel, and possibly domestic travel as well.



Likewise, students who intend to use the gap year to work may find their plans impeded by COVID-19. The pandemic has harmed nearly every business to some extent, but the types of businesses that are likely to employ high school students and recent graduates (e.g., movie theaters, restaurants, retail stores) are particularly hard-hit.

Especially with so many adults with more professional experience looking for jobs themselves, trying to find work during a recession may not be viable for recent high school graduates. And even students who were employed prior to the pandemic may not have jobs to return to when restrictions are lifted. Businesses are operating at reduced capacity because of pandemic-related restrictions (such as limited occupancy) and, in part, due to lower consumer demand while customers are also out of work.

That doesn't mean there aren't good reasons to take a gap year, but it does mean the decision should be considered carefully. Changing college enrollment plans on the fly could have serious consequences and long-term impact.

## There's no guarantee that the same options will be open in a year.

Again, COVID-19 means most businesses are only operating with limited capacity, and colleges and universities are not immune to that trend. If a significant number of potential students choose not to attend college in Fall 2020, part-time professors, adjuncts, and guest lecturers may no longer be needed. This incremental workforce within colleges and universities helps institutions match class offerings to student demand. In turn, it also has a direct impact on the total number of students those institutions can admit within a single academic year. This trend could reduce the number of available spots for enrolling in Fall 2021 or later.

***Competition in the 2021 academic year may also look different. Keep in mind that 2020 graduates who delay starting college will be competing next spring with 2021 graduates.***

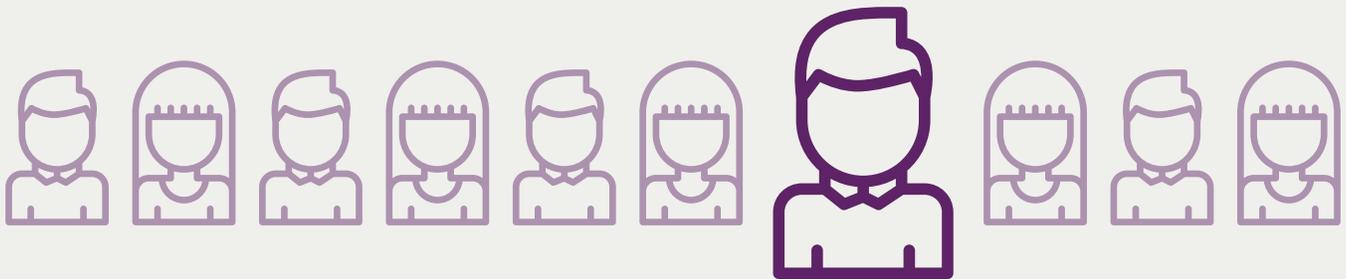
The goal of a gap year might be to keep one's options open, but in the post-pandemic landscape, those options are not guaranteed. While it's too soon to say for sure how difficult it will be to get into college in 2021, the risk is significant.

Even when students are ready to go to campus, there may not be a seat for them to occupy.

## When gap year results in permanent college postponement, long-term career consequences can follow.

It could become more common — the gap year that doesn't end. Decisions are made in a moment in time, and each passing moment presents a new set of circumstances that can further derail planned actions.

One study found that the college enrollment rate for gap year students a year later was 90%. Even that high figure still means that one in 10 students didn't end up going to college as initially planned — and again, that's a pre-pandemic figure looking primarily at *planned* gap years. It may be that students who take an *unplanned* gap year due to COVID-19 will have a significantly higher non-enrollment rate as their circumstances continue to evolve during the next year.



It's understandable that prospective students view committing to attending college in the fall as risky. It's also important to keep in mind that delaying college is a risky decision in itself.

For example, a [2019 study](#) by the Community College Research Center found that students who do not enroll in college immediately after completing high school end up losing significant income over the long term.<sup>8</sup> It turns out, an important part of ensuring that you finish college is keeping your education moving forward. A gap year makes a student less likely to ultimately earn a four-year degree. A student who starts college immediately after high school will finish college sooner and begin acquiring professional, post-college work experience that carries far more value to future employers.



No one knows how the job market will look four years from now — but we know even less about how the job market will look *five* years from now and beyond. A [2018 CNN Money article](#) looked back on the Great Recession that began in late 2007 and found that it can take a decade or more for students who graduate during a recession to catch up financially.<sup>9</sup> Faced with those prospects, delaying graduation only compounds the risk of having to play catch-up later.

What's clear is that students who keep their education on track and finish their degrees sooner will have more options when entering the job market.



## Online learning is an opportunity to stay on track — while keeping your options open.

In short, the safest course of action for most prospective students is to keep their education moving forward to maintain long-term options and minimize disruption.

For students who don't want to be on campus in the fall, online education is an excellent alternative. An academically rigorous online degree program keeps students on track with their education while allowing them to stay home, maintain social distancing, and have the flexibility they need.

## You can start online, stay — or transfer.

It's also important to remember that going online for freshman year doesn't mean committing to four years of online education; it's relatively easy to transition from an online program to an on-campus program if and when the student feels comfortable doing so.

***Completing the freshman year online is an opportunity to **knock out gen-ed requirements** and stay on pace for their desired on-campus university.***

Other students find that they thrive in the online learning environment and elect to stay in their online programs despite their original plans.

Prospective students face unprecedented challenges right now, but the answer to those challenges is to keep their education on track as much as possible. For many students, online education — a safe, affordable, flexible option — is the answer.



## The Online Student Experience

While not on campus, the benefits and sense of community for online students remain strong.

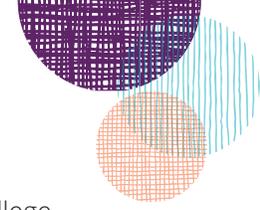
### Learning online means you're still part of a community

Humans crave social interaction. That has always been true, but people are feeling that need acutely right now due to social distancing and quarantine requirements.

In particular, prospective college students frequently look to meet new people and build new relationships. This is often a barrier for students who may be considering online degree programs:

*Will they still have the personal connection with peers and professors that is such an integral part of the college experience?*

In short: yes. In fact, going to college online creates unique opportunities to build a network that transcends geography and life circumstances.



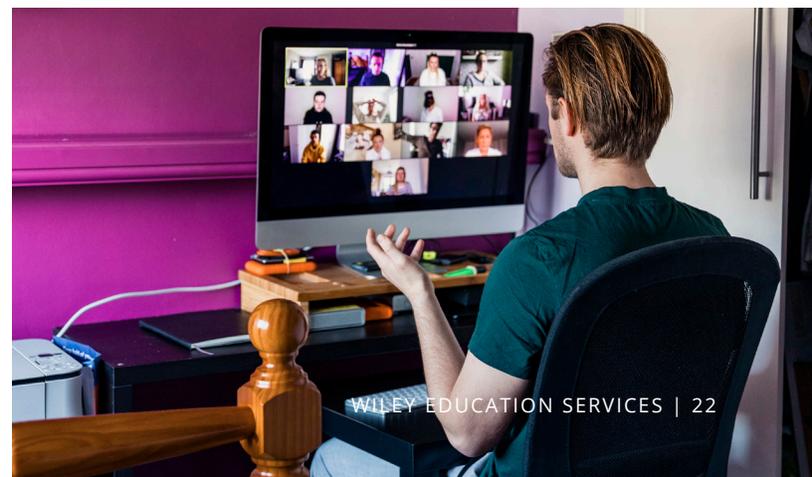
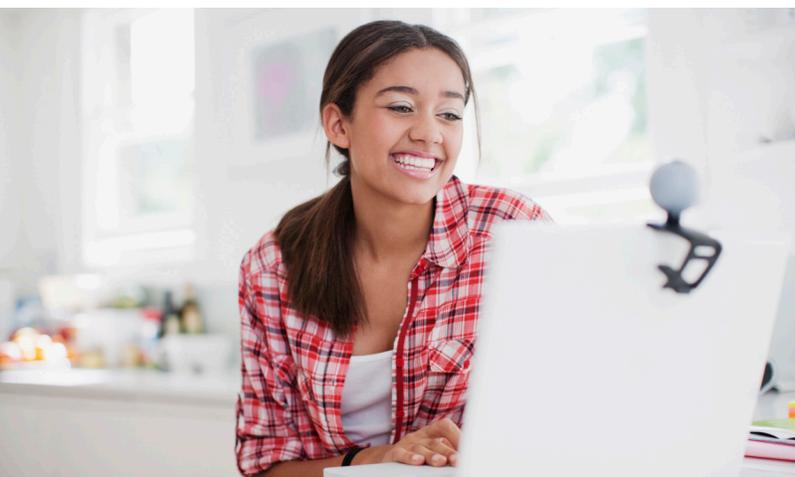
## It's not just taking online classes

A college education isn't just about the classroom, and that doesn't change when a college degree program is offered online. Online students still have access to resources provided by their institutions, and research shows that they take advantage of them. In particular, about two-thirds of online students take advantage of career services while enrolled. Online students also take advantage of services such as study skills development, time management, money management, health and wellness assistance, and more.<sup>10</sup>

While online learning makes it possible for students to attend colleges thousands of miles away if desired, the reality is that two-thirds of online students attend a college within a 50-mile radius of their home address. These students can absolutely visit campus (for instance, for sporting or social events) if desired.<sup>11</sup> In some cases, online students can even receive a school ID to take advantage of student discounts at retailers, restaurants, and events.

The evidence also says that college students who take their classes online form a relationship with their alma mater that persists after graduation.<sup>12</sup> Nearly half of current and past online students have expressed interest in taking more classes at the same college in the future, and about a third intend to refer other students to the school or join the alumni association.

*freedom | interaction | social connections*



## Synchronous vs. asynchronous learning (and how they work together)

Synchronous (“same time”) learning consists of elements that students experience together in real-time, while asynchronous learning includes features that students experience at separate times. The exact balance of synchronous and asynchronous elements varies between programs, but most include at least some of each.

Synchronous touchpoints (e.g., video conferences via Zoom, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, or Skype, as well as chats and telephone calls) are typically determined by mutual agreement between students, not assigned times. In contrast to the traditional classroom model, online degree programs allow students to have real-time interaction with each other on their schedules.

The basic concept of asynchronous learning has been around for a long time, but technology has made the modality far more robust. It’s not just watching pre-recorded lectures and completing homework; elements such as team collaboration in Google Docs or forums within student Facebook or LinkedIn groups, as well as dedicated discussion forums within the learning management system, allow students to connect and collaborate on their schedules.



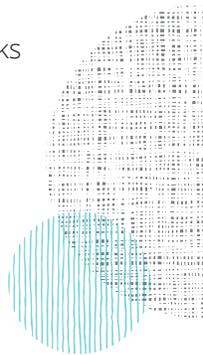


## **A network of learners unrestricted by geography and lifestyle**

Online programs are built with flexibility in mind, and students have the freedom to find the social interaction they need while maintaining a balance between school and other commitments. They can access classwork on-the-go using mobile devices or tablets, interact with classmates, and allow social connections to develop organically rather than trying to follow a set schedule.

This flexibility is more than just convenient. The online classroom truly brings together students from all walks of life, across the country and beyond, and places them in an environment where everyone has a voice. The format lends to community learning, conversation, and consensus-building, as each student has an equal opportunity to contribute their unique point of view to the discussion. In addition to providing more diverse perspectives on the subject matter, online learning builds relationships between this diverse array of students, creating a more robust post-graduate network when those students enter the job market.

Perhaps the best way to assess the online student experience is to ask students who have experienced both classroom and online learning. By this metric, online learning stacks up quite well: the overwhelming majority (89%) of students who have experienced both formats at the college level rated their online instruction as just as good as, or better than, their classroom instruction.<sup>16</sup>



***Online students may be physically remote, but they are from disconnected.***





## Online Bachelor's Degrees: Myth vs. Fact

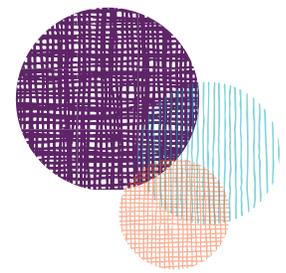
Know the facts (and myths) about earning a bachelor's degree online.

Online learning has been a rapidly growing trend in recent years among traditional public and private non-profit institutions, but COVID-19 put the online modality under intense scrutiny.

Overnight, government officials, academic administrators, and degree seekers all scrambled to adopt and adapt to new tools, technologies, and instructional approaches. In most cases, this emergency approach to virtual instruction presented a false narrative. In reality, online education and the ability to earn an online bachelor's degree is not a new concept.

Many students and professionals alike have found great success and achieved their personal and professional aspirations by earning their advanced degree online.

So with so much information circulating, how do you know what's fact, and what is pure fiction?



Here are a few misconceptions that students have regarding online education and earning their bachelor's degree online.

### **MYTH** *An Online Education is Limiting.*

**Here's the truth.** Online learning opens doors to opportunity. To some, online learning may seem new, but in reality, accredited online degree programs date back to 1996. Fast forward 24 years, and you'll find the polish, sophistication, and breadth of online degree programs offered today is immense.

One of the biggest benefits of earning a degree online is that the classroom is not limited by geographic location. Throughout the course of study, students build relationships with classmates from across the country, and in some instances, around the world.

This exposure not only diversifies a student's perspective on academic topics but also helps them build a strong peer network that can open the door to more opportunities post-graduation.

And with the number of online bachelor's degree offered to date, chances are high that there is a respected institution that offers a course of study that aligns to a student's interests and professional aspirations.

### **MYTH** *Learning Online is Isolating.*

**Here's the truth.** Earning an online degree is a connected experience. Most learning management systems (LMS) are inherently designed for maximum peer-to-peer collaboration.

Discussion forums let students share their viewpoints on key topics and build a sense of community. Video tools such as Skype, Google Hangouts, and FaceTime allow students to connect face-to-face, virtually. Interestingly, it is common for online students to live within proximity to the campus. This means small, offline meetups can occur as needed while adhering to post-pandemic recommendations.

And these virtual interactions extend to faculty, too. With online degree programs being commonplace at most universities and colleges, instructors are well-versed in the online modality to ensure maximum student support throughout the program's entirety. Like students pursuing on-campus programs, online students have access to (virtual) office hours, on-campus meetings, and more.<sup>17</sup>

Rest assured, online students are not alone in their journey.

***The classroom is NOT LIMITED by geographic location.***

## **MYTH** *Online Learning is Subpar to On-Campus.*

**Here's the truth.** Online students get the same robust curriculum and knowledgeable instructors as on-campus students. Students absorb the material in familiar settings on a timeline that fits within their life and their schedule. Online coursework provides a high-level education within an easy-to-use online portal that's engaging, innovative, and just as rigorous as learning in person.<sup>18</sup>

In reality, online degree programs can offer flexibility and convenience that on-ground programs cannot.

## **MYTH** *Only Part-Time or Out-Of-State Students Study Online.*

**Here's the truth.** Online degree programs are designed to cater to a range of student needs, from part-time to full-time. A key benefit to learning online is flexibility — the ability for students to craft a schedule and fit learning into their day-to-day lifestyle.

The online modality is especially appealing to students looking to work full-time while still furthering their education. The asynchronous format allows them to seamlessly balance work and academics without having to compromise one in favor of the other.

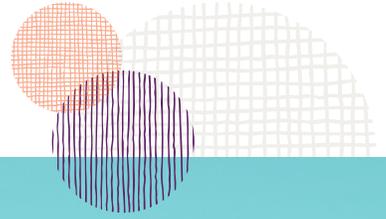
Whether it's the busy professional who lives five blocks from campus or a full-time student living out of state, online degree programs put success within reach, making it more attainable and less dependent on environmental or social circumstances.

## **MYTH** *Online Bachelor's Degrees Aren't as Credible.*

**Here's the truth.** With the majority of online degree programs sharing curriculum and faculty with its on-ground counterparts, students expect the same academic rigor, education, and outcomes as those students who elect to attend campus.<sup>19</sup> Online programs offer the same prestige and respect as traditional degrees; the only difference is the way students take courses.

And for some students, this is where online wins.

Online degree programs offer flexibility and convenience that on-ground programs cannot. Graduates of both programs are awarded identical credentials.



# SAME

*academic rigor,  
education, and outcomes  
as those students who  
elect to attend campus*





# EXPLORE *an online* DEGREE PROGRAM

## FEATURED UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

- 31 Campbellsville University
- 33 Concordia University, St. Paul
- 35 East Central University
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- 49 Utica College
- 51 The Leaders in Online Degree Programs





# Campbellsville University

ONLINE.CAMPBELLVILLE.EDU >

## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

Campbellsville, KY

**School Accreditation:**

SACSCOC

**Total Online Programs:**

51

**Admissions Rate:**

83%

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1906, Campbellsville University is a comprehensive, Christian institution that offers numerous dynamic online degrees to provide accessible opportunities for students to continue their education.

The university is dedicated to academic excellence solidly grounded in the liberal arts that fosters personal growth, integrity and professional preparation within a caring environment.

**No. 1 in Kentucky for Best Online Business Programs\***  
– U.S. News & World Report

**No. 5 for Best Online Bachelor's Programs**  
– U.S. News & World Report

\*excluding MBA

Campbellsville's professors ensure that students receive a relevant education that can be applied to their career paths. They have been ranked by College Consensus as one of the **25 Most Innovative Online Colleges for 2019**.

Campbellsville's affordable online programs are ideal for students who simply want flexibility in how they learn or need to balance work and family responsibilities.

## TUITION

Campbellsville University offers its students affordable tuition with the majority of its bachelor degree programs charging \$399 per-credit hour. The RN-BSN online program is only \$325 per-credit hour.

**\$399**

per-credit  
hour

BACHELOR DEGREE  
PROGRAM

**\$325**

per-credit  
hour

RN-BSN ONLINE  
PROGRAM



## TRANSFER POLICY

Students can transfer your credits from another regionally accredited institution and apply them toward their degree. For our bachelor's degrees, students can transfer up to 72 credits. Students may also be eligible to earn a \$1,500 Transfer Scholarship.

***Transfer up to 72 credits toward a Campbellsville University degree.***

After enrolling to Campbellsville Online, students can transfer an additional three credit hours when approved in advance by the director of student records.

## ONLINE ASSOCIATE'S AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the online associate's and bachelor's degrees offered at Campbellsville University.

A.S. Business Administration  
A.S. Christian Studies  
A.S. Criminal Justice  
A.S. Education  
A.S. General Studies  
A.S. Mass Communications  
Bachelor of Liberal Arts & Sciences

B.S. Business Administration  
B.S. Criminal Justice Administration  
B.S. in General Business  
B.S. Leadership and Missions  
B.S. Pastoral Ministries  
Bachelor of Social Work  
RN to BSN

To learn more about Campbellsville University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# Concordia University, St. Paul

ONLINE.CSP.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

St. Paul, MN

**School Accreditation:**

HLC

**Total Online Programs:**

33

**Admissions Rate:**

97%

## WHO WE ARE

Concordia University, St. Paul was founded in 1893 as a Christian liberal arts university dedicated to providing students with an exceptional education to prepare them for successful careers and meaningful lives.

It has remained focused on that mission for more than 100 years through a student-centered approach to learning that fosters a caring, supportive, and energetic environment.

Concordia offers career-focused degrees, so students receive the benefits of a liberal arts education while immersed in an online program designed to give students marketable job skills and knowledge.

Concordia University, St. Paul welcomes a diverse student body and enables students to grow academically, spiritually and interpersonally. The sense of community at Concordia University, St. Paul — whether on campus or online — makes students feel like part of the Concordia family. CSP encourages students to explore their interests, engage with professors and peers and achieve their goals through academic success.

## TUITION

Concordia University, St. Paul provides an affordable educational choice for adult learners. They offer online associate's and bachelor's programs at a competitive rate — **only \$420 per credit hour**.

In addition, once enrolled in a degree program, **tuition will not change as long as the student remains continuously enrolled in the program**, which guarantees students are fully aware and prepared for the financial commitment to their education.





## TRANSFER POLICY

### **Trade in your associate degree credits and receive a \$2,000 scholarship.**

The decision to transfer to a different school should be made with careful comparison. CSP's Transfer Plan partnership provides a transfer process that offers students real benefits and vast opportunities for advanced learning.

#### ***No application fee required!***

CSP offers this program to students who transfer directly from a Concordia partner institution and pursue an undergraduate degree.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Concordia University online puts students in control of their academic schedule through an accessible and flexible online format. With a tradition of academic excellence, online students earn high-quality online degrees, and receive the same education as their on-campus counterparts.

Students receive many benefits from CSP's online programs. Concordia's online community encourages students to explore their interests, engage with professors and peers, and achieve their academic success and growth goals.

## ONLINE ASSOCIATE'S AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the online associate's and bachelor's degrees offered at Concordia University, St. Paul.

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A.A. in General Studies           | B.A. Human Resource Management  |
| A.A. in Early Childhood Education | B.A. Information Systems        |
| B.S. Accounting                   | B.A. Management and Leadership  |
| B.A. Business                     | B.A. Marketing                  |
| B.A. Child Development            | B.A. Psychology                 |
| B.S. Computer Science             | B.S. Pulmonary Science          |
| B.A. Criminal Justice             | RN to BSN                       |
| B.A. Exercise Science             | B.A. Sports Management          |
| B.A. Family Science               | B.S. Web Design and Development |
| B.A. Health Care Administration   |                                 |

To learn more about Concordia University, St. Paul's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# East Central University

ONLINE.ECOK.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

Ada, Oklahoma

**School Accreditation:**

HLC

**Total Online Programs:**

12

**Admissions Rate:**

74%

## WHO WE ARE

East Central University is recognized as one of Oklahoma’s premier regional universities. With a host of online degree programs, they offer an exceptional educational experience that prepares students to become an adaptable and innovative problem-solver in their career and the world. ECU’s online programs extend their 100-year history of excellence to the digital sphere, readying students everywhere to go further and do more.

Founded in 1909, East Central University was established for the purpose of teacher certification. Since that time, ECU has grown into a full-fledged university, offering a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. As the alma mater of business leaders, elected officials, artists, scientists, astronauts and countless others, ECU remains one of the best institutions in the state for students to experience innovative learning through on-campus and online communities.

## TUITION

East Central University Online understands how important it is to earn an affordable degree. Students can learn more about the costs and fees associated with their program of interest and see how much they can save when transferring in previously earned college credit by visiting [online.ecok.edu](http://online.ecok.edu).

Tuition for ECU Online bachelor’s programs is \$264.25 per credit hour\* yielding a total tuition of \$32,827\*.

**\$264.25**  
per credit  
hour\*

**\$32,827\***  
total tuition

\*Oklahoma resident tuition



## TRANSFER POLICY

ECU Online strives to ensure that the transfer process is as easy as possible for every prospective student. Students must have completed 24 college credit hours with a retention grade-point average of 2.0 or higher to meet the transfer admissions criteria. Students with fewer than 24 college credit hours are required to submit their high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores for consideration.

ECU also has articulation agreements with Eastern Oklahoma State College, Murray State College, Seminole State College, Rose State College and Oklahoma City Community College.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Becoming an online student doesn't just mean the opportunity to earn a degree. It means finding a path toward professional advancement.

The online format is designed for ultimate flexibility, allowing working adults to attend school while maintaining their commitments to work and life. Online degree programs are often less expensive than their on-campus counterparts, but still feature the same rigorous academics and opportunities to engage with meaningful learning communities while earning a degree.

### A Typical Week in the Life

The schedule of an online student is one that balances the daily responsibilities of life with the excitement of pursuing an education.

During a typical week, students will log in to look at their course syllabus, review assignments and prepare for the week ahead. The next seven days are filled with coursework completed at their convenience.

Attend a class after dinner, post comments in class discussions during a lunch break or write a paper after the kids have gone to bed. Students are still able to go to work, spend time with their family and keep previous commitments while earning their degree and advancing their career.

## ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are a few of the bachelor's programs offered at ECU Online:

B.A. Criminal Justice Policy

B.A. Human Services Counseling

B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies

B.S. Kinesiology

Bachelor of Social Work

To learn more about East Central University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# Eastern Oregon University

ONLINE.EOU.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

La Grande, Oregon

**School Accreditation:**

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

**Total Online Programs:**

24

**Admissions Rate:**

98%

## WHO WE ARE

Eastern Oregon University is a rich cultural epicenter of rural Oregon, connecting students to a wider world through nationally recognized online programs.

Part of our success comes from adherence to core values: altruism, civility, discovery, integrity, interdependence and quality. Online courses are always inclusive by embracing diverse perspectives. Faculty seek local and global contexts, and above all, reinforce intellectual engagement and academic rigor through an engaging digital format.

**No. 2 EOU's rank in Best Value Online Schools in Oregon**  
– Best Value Schools, 2019

By taking full advantage of transfer credits and working with faculty who are professionals and experts in their fields, students receive a high quality, award-winning online education tailored to their success.

## TUITION

### The Value of an EOU Online Degree

Tuition for EOU Online is one of the lowest in the state, at **\$252 per credit hour** (a cost differential will be applied to ACCT, BA and ECON prefix courses). Based on 18 credit hours, EOU Online tuition costs \$4,536 per year, with online programs from other state schools costing more than \$5,562 per year.





## TRANSFER POLICY

### Transfer Pathways and Community Partnerships

Students can save even more by transferring credits to EOU Online through generous transfer pathways. EOU offers **fast track transfer pathways with 26 states**, plus transfer equivalency agreements with community partners.

Students with extensive work experience or on-the-job training could get credit through agency-sponsored learning. They could also work with faculty in their program to pursue assessment of prior experiential learning, which could mean course credit plus reduced tuition costs.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### EOU Online works for you

Pursuing an education from EOU Online provides the same benefits as on-campus, in-person courses. Students get the flexibility to learn on their schedule and from their own space, allowing them to complete a cost-effective, rigorous online education while learning from expert faculty.

Employers value the skills developed from an online education: the initiative to complete tasks, the ability to work independently, digital composing skills, time management skills, and organizational skills.

## ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the bachelor's programs offered by Eastern Oregon University Online:

Bachelor's in Accounting  
Bachelor's in Anthropology/Sociology  
*Anthropology*  
*Sociology & Social Welfare*  
Bachelor's in Business  
Bachelor's in Business Administration  
*Global Food Systems and Agribusiness*  
*Leadership, Organization and Management*  
*Marketing*  
Bachelor's in Communication Studies  
Bachelor's in Computer Science  
Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education  
Bachelor's in Economics

Bachelor's in Emergency Medical Services Administration  
Bachelor's in English/Writing  
Bachelor's in Fire Services Administration  
Bachelor's in History  
Bachelor's in Information Technology Management  
Bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies  
Bachelor's in Health and Human Performance  
*Community Health*  
*Exercise Science*  
*Physical Education & Sport*  
Bachelor's in Politics and Economics  
Bachelor's in Psychology  
Bachelor's in Public Administration

To learn more about Eastern Oregon University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).



# Husson University

ONLINE.HUSSON.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

Bangor, ME

**School Accreditation:**

NECHE

**Total Online Programs:**

26

**Admissions Rate:**

83%

## WHO WE ARE

Husson University, a regionally accredited non-profit institution, has been educating New England professionals since 1898 through programs that lead to career success. Our degrees combine essential knowledge with real-world practical experience.

When students enroll in a degree program taught online at Husson, they will learn from professors who have excelled in their fields, and who bring their extensive experience to the classroom, ensuring that the curriculum is relevant and applicable to the student's career goals. Husson's online programs are taught by the same faculty who teach its face-to-face, on-ground programs.

*Husson offers an **affordable, practical, and relevant** education*

Experiential learning and global engagement are core values at Husson, and their value-driven education enables students to acquire the knowledge they need for the future they want.

Husson University inspires and prepares students for professional careers in current and emerging fields within the context of an education informed by the sciences and humanities.

## TUITION

Husson University is a great value offering its students bachelor's degrees at \$374 per credit hour.

**\$374**

per credit  
hour



## TRANSFER POLICY

Undergraduates are eligible to transfer up to 90 credit hours to accelerate their progress and finish faster.

***Transfer up to 90 credit hours to accelerate progress and finish faster.***

Transfer students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at Husson University. At least 15 credits must be earned in Husson major courses.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Husson works to make education fit students' lives. Husson's affordable, convenient online educational programs allow students to earn their degree on their time, in a way that works for them.

This dedication to quality and flexibility is what makes Husson the university of choice for professionals interested in taking their careers to the next level.

## ONLINE CERTIFICATES AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the online certificates and bachelor's degrees offered at Husson University.

Undergraduate Certificate in Business  
Undergraduate Certificate in Data Analytics  
Undergraduate Certificate in Sales  
Bachelor of Science in Accounting  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration  
(concentrations in Management and  
Marketing Management)  
Bachelor of Science in Business and Professional Studies

Bachelor of Science in Business and Liberal Studies  
Bachelor of Science in Data Analytics  
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration  
and Public Health  
Bachelor of Science in Integrated Technology –  
Software Development  
Bachelor of Science in Psychology

To learn more about Husson University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# King University

ONLINE.KING.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**  
Bristol, TN

**School Accreditation:**  
SACSCOC

**Total Online Programs:**  
16

**Admissions Rate:**  
58%

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1867, King University (originally King College) is a Presbyterian-affiliated Christian academic community dedicated to integrating rigorous academic programming and the exploration of faith. The university establishes students in a robust liberal arts foundation and offers specialization in a contemporary range of undergraduate degrees.

*U.S. News & World Report* has continually ranked King among the best colleges in the nation. The Princeton Review has repeatedly named King one of the **Best Colleges in the Southeast**.

### Our Accolades

**No. 1 in Highest Salary  
and Lowest Debt in  
Northeast Tennessee**

**Best Online Colleges  
& Universities**  
– Christian Universities Online

**Best Regional University**  
– U.S. News &  
World Report

## TUITION

King strives to ensure education is affordable. King is proud to offer one of the lowest tuitions in the region, with financial aid available to all who qualify. The majority of King University's online bachelor's programs are \$305 per credit hour.

King also offers a variety of scholarships and qualifies for federal financial aid, helping offset the total cost of student's education.

**\$305**  
per credit  
hour

**\$330**  
per credit  
hour  
RN-BSN ONLINE  
PROGRAM



## TRANSFER POLICY

At King University, students can **transfer up to 76 credits** toward their bachelor's degree program.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

At King University, an online degree is more than just a credential. It's a path towards a more meaningful career.

**Ultimate Flexibility.** Online learning makes it possible for students to earn their degree conveniently. Students can choose when and where they attend class, allowing them to earn their degree while still maintaining commitments to work and life.

**Study at Your Own Pace.** Learning in an online format allows students to adjust their academic path based on their personal preferences. Students have the chance to spend as much time with instructional materials as needed. Plus, multiple start dates allow students to adjust their track to graduation.

**A Community of Learning.** King University's online programs offer the same course of study and level of academic rigor as our on-campus counterparts. Students have access to the same experienced faculty and faith-based learning environment, allowing them to connect with their peers in a caring community atmosphere.

**Become a Leader.** Online students are unique. The independent nature of their learning format means those who pursue the path are exceptionally motivated, with an unwavering drive to succeed. Those who graduate from King University's online programs do so with an increased understanding of their own fortitude and excellence.

## ONLINE ASSOCIATE'S AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are a few of the online associate's and bachelor's degrees offered at King University.

Associate of Arts

B.A. English

B.S. Communication

B.S. Criminal Justice

B.S. Health Informatics

B.S. Healthcare Administration

B.S. History

B.S. Information Technology

B.S. Psychology

B.S. Religious Studies

Bachelor of Business Administration

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

To learn more about King University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).



# Lindenwood University

ONLINE.LINDENWOOD.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

St. Charles, MO

**School Accreditation:**

HLC

**Total Online Programs:**

36

**Admissions Rate:**

88%

## WHO WE ARE

A private, accredited institution, Lindenwood University has been providing academic excellence for nearly 200 years. Founded in 1827, Lindenwood prepare our students, both on campus and online, for lifelong success.

Lindenwood's online programs offer the flexibility, quality, affordability, and unparalleled support students deserve. Available in dynamic career areas, Lindenwood's innovative programs are industry-driven and provide relevant skills.

***Ranked No. 29 Best Online Colleges and Universities Nationally***  
– Intelligent.com

In addition, Lindenwood University faculty are experts in their respective fields, and they pass their real-world knowledge on to students.

## TUITION

### Value of a Lindenwood Degree

Lindenwood University strives to provide its online students with a high-quality, affordable education to prepare them for lifelong success. In fact, Lindenwood University is ranked as No. 17 on Niche.com's list of Best Value Colleges in Missouri.

***Ranked No. 17 Best Value Colleges in Missouri***  
– Niche.com



# LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

## TRANSFER POLICY

Lindenwood University doesn't want the college credits students have already earned to go to waste. Lindenwood Online offers a generous credit transfer policy for its undergraduate programs. Students can even complete their degree in as few as 30 credit hours taken within the Lindenwood University system.

In addition, Lindenwood partners with area community colleges, which allow credits to be counted toward general education requirements.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Achieve Your Goals With a Flexible Online Program

Lindenwood University knows that pursuing a college degree requires students to juggle coursework with their busy schedules. That is why Lindenwood designed its online degree programs to fit an adult learner's busy schedule. For students who are parents, have a hectic work schedule, or simply require flexibility while earning their degree, Lindenwood's programs can help them succeed in achieving their goals.

***63% of students find that an online program works best for their current responsibilities.***

When a student earns their degree online at Lindenwood University, they can study whenever it's most convenient. They also have access to the same resources as on-campus students, including Lindenwood's library, Veterans Affairs Center, and more. Also, students will receive personalized support throughout their online program's duration from a dedicated support team.

## ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the online bachelor's degrees offered at Lindenwood University.

BA in Art and Design  
BA in Art History and Visual Culture  
BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice  
BA in Game Design  
BA in Interdisciplinary Studies  
BA/BS in Business Administration  
BA/BS in Human Resource Management  
BA/BS in Marketing

BFA in Art and Design  
BS in Cybersecurity  
BS in Fashion Business and Entrepreneurship  
BS in Health Management  
BS in Information Technology  
BS in Paramedicine  
BS in Social Media and Digital Content Strategy

To learn more about Lindenwood University's online degree programs, including its graduate degrees, [visit our website](#).

# Point University

ONLINE.POINT.EDU >

## FAST FACTS

**Location:**

West Point, GA

**School Accreditation:**

SACSCOC

**Total Online Programs:**

48

**Admissions Rate:**

84%

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1937, Point University is a private liberal arts institution that educates students to influence culture for Christ in all spheres of life. In addition to its online programs, which provide a broad, comprehensive curriculum designed to prepare students for their chosen professions, Point University operates multiple ground campuses throughout Georgia.

***97% of Point University Students Receive Financial Aid***

Point University offers accredited associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees taught by dedicated faculty who equip the next generation to take their faith into the marketplace in new and culturally relevant ways — to erase the lines between who they are and what they do so that they see life and mission as one and the same.

## TUITION

### Higher Education without Higher Costs

Point University is committed to providing access to a high-quality, affordable education. Students can rest assured that Point University will always do its best to keep the cost of tuition as low as possible and provide exceptional high-demand degree programs at a much lower cost than many other institutions.

***Point University's cost-per-credit is \$410 for all undergraduate online programs.***

In fact, Point University Online Students benefit from nearly 40% off the regular on-campus tuition rate.

**\$410**  
per credit  
hour



## TRANSFER POLICY

Point University wants to make it as simple as possible for students to earn their degree, and that includes offering a seamless transition for students who wish to transfer college credits to Point.

- For an **associate degree**, students may transfer up to 50% of the required courses (typically 30 credits) from another institution.
- For a **bachelor's degree**, students may transfer up to 75% of the required courses (typically 90 credits), including a maximum 60 credits from 2-year colleges.

Point University's enrollment specialists work closely with students to make sure that they can transfer the maximum amount of earned credits from other institutions to Point.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Point University's unique online learning environment helps facilitate interaction between faculty and fellow students. Students can learn on their own schedule from the convenience of their home — or from anywhere in the world.

Point University online students have the opportunity to join Omega Nu Lambda, a national honor society specifically for online students that offers scholarship opportunities, nationwide networking, and more to its members.

## ONLINE ASSOCIATE'S AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are few of the online associate's and bachelor's degrees offered at Point University.

|                              |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A.A. Accounting              | AA Psychology                | BS Information Systems Security |
| AA Business Administration   | AA Public Health             | BS Management                   |
| AA Christian Ministries      | AA Social Media Marketing    | BS Marketing                    |
| AA Criminal Justice          | AA Youth Ministry            | BS Network Administration       |
| AA General Studies           |                              | BS Organizational Leadership    |
| AA Healthcare Administration | BS Accounting                | BS Psychology                   |
| AA Human Relations           | BS Business Administration   | BS Public Health                |
| AS Information Technology    | BS Christian Ministries      | BS in Nursing – RN to BSN       |
| AS Medical Assisting         | BS Criminal Justice          | Completion Program              |
| AS Medical Coding & Billing  | BS Entrepreneurship          | BS Social Media Marketing       |
| AS Medical Office Management | BS Healthcare Administration | Social Work (BSW)               |
| AA Organizational Leadership | BS Human Relations           | BS Youth & Family Ministries    |

To learn more about Point University's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# University of West Alabama

ONLINE.UWA.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

### Location:

Livingston, AL

### School Accreditation:

SACSCOC

### Total Online Programs:

77

## WHO WE ARE

The University of West Alabama is located in the heart of Livingston on the western border of the state. The school was originally chartered in 1835 as a church-related academy for girls. In the late 19th century, it was under the direction of the noted educator and reformer Julia Tutwiler, who succeeded in getting a small appropriation from the state legislature in 1883 to establish normal school training for girls. This is believed to be the first state appropriation in Alabama made exclusively for the education of women.

Alabama assumed full control of the school in 1907, and the institution grew and developed in subsequent decades to the point where it recognized its broader mission as a regional university. It reflected this in 1995 by changing its name to the University of West Alabama. Currently, the university offers more than 70 online programs and serves more than 3,000 online students.

## TUITION

The University of West Alabama Online is dedicated to making education as affordable as possible. Each program is competitively priced, and 80 percent of students receive some financial aid. Students also use available grants, scholarships, loans and more.

***The University of West Alabama Online offers bachelor's programs for \$325 per credit hour.***

As part of its commitment to providing affordable education, UWA Online offers payment plans for education expenses. These plans allow for smaller, more affordable payments over time, making paying for college more accessible for UWA students.

**\$325**  
per credit  
hour



## TRANSFER POLICY

The student experience at the University of West Alabama Online is designed to be as straightforward and convenient as possible. UWA offers a generous transfer policy at every degree level.

***Transfer up to 90 credit hours from a four-year college, or 60 from a two-year college.***

Undergraduates transferring from a two-year college are eligible to transfer up to 60 credits and up to 90 credits from a four-year college with matching courses and curriculums.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Discover the flexibility and convenience of learning online while benefiting from the quality from one of Alabama's oldest colleges. At the University of West Alabama Online, students can pursue their personal and career goals in a culturally and intellectually diverse environment, with a flexible format designed to fit their lifestyle.

## ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Here are a few of the online bachelor's degrees offered at the University of West Alabama.

B.A./B.S. Integrated Marketing Communications  
B.A./B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies  
B.A./B.S. Psychology  
B.A./B.S. Sport Management  
BBA Accounting  
BBA Business Administration  
BBA Computer Information Systems

BBA Management  
BBA Marketing  
B.S. Early Childhood Development  
B.S. Elementary Education, K-6/P-3  
B.S. Public Safety  
B.S. Special Education: Collaborative Teacher, K-6/6-12  
B.S. Technology

To learn more about University of West Alabama's online degree programs, [visit our website](#).

# Utica College

PROGRAMS.ONLINE.UTICA.EDU >



## FAST FACTS

### Location:

Utica, New York

### School Accreditation:

Middle States Commission  
on Higher Education

### Total Online Programs:

28

## WHO WE ARE

Located in the heart of Central New York, Utica College is an independent, private institution founded in 1946 by Syracuse University. Utica College offers high-quality online programs, outstanding faculty engagement, and all the advantages of a larger institution with the personal attention and mentorship of a small, private college.

Through hands-on curricula, direct support from instructors and fellow students, and a range of certificates and online degrees, students graduate from Utica College fully prepared for long term success in their chosen field.

**Top 200 Regional University**  
– U.S. News & World Report

Utica College's vision is to be the nation's most innovative small university, inspiring students to create a future beyond their imagining. They believe effective learning can take place anytime, anywhere, and their programs are designed for the lives of busy professionals.

## TUITION

An online degree from Utica College is an exciting and worthwhile investment that offers lasting personal and professional benefits. **The cost-per-credit for Utica's online bachelor's programs ranges from \$375 to \$475**, depending on the program of interest.

Utica College is dedicated to making an advanced education accessible and affordable and offers many avenues for financial aid.

**\$375  
to \$475**  
per credit  
hour



## TRANSFER POLICY

Courses completed at a regionally accredited college that are equivalent to those taught at Utica College, and where students received a grade of “C” or better are eligible for transfer. Utica requires official transcripts from all colleges attended, as well as a transcript showing degree awarded.

## ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

As an online student with Utica College, students experience a rigorous, expertly designed education that puts them in touch with fellow students and professors from around the world.

Online offerings feature the same robust curriculum as an on-ground program, but offer students a flexible setting at a pace that suits their life. Small class sizes (20 or under) ensure that online students get the same personal attention that they would receive on campus.

Utica’s online programs are ideal for any student looking to balance education with family and professional obligations.

## ONLINE BACHELOR’S DEGREES

Here are a few of the online bachelor’s degrees offered at Utica College.

- B.B.A. in Business Administration (launching Fall 2020)
- B.S. in Criminal Intelligence Analysis
- B.S. in Criminal Justice
- B.S. in Cybersecurity
- B.S. in Fraud and Financial Crime Investigation
- B.S. in Health Sciences (launching Fall 2020)
- RN-BSN

To learn more about Utica College’s online degree programs, including its master’s, doctoral, and certificate offerings, please [visit our website](#).



# The Leaders in Online Degree Programs

**Considering earning your degree online?** You're not alone. According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), roughly **5.4 million students**, or 25.8 percent of the college student population, took at least one online class, with **almost 3 million students** taking online courses exclusively.

Here are few of the leading, non-profit institutions that have a proven record in providing exceptional learning in the online space.

## NORTHEAST

[Alvernia University \(Pennsylvania\)](#)  
[Anna Maria College \(Massachusetts\)](#)  
[American University \(Washington D.C.\)](#)  
[D'Youville College \(New York\)](#)  
[Emmanuel College \(Massachusetts\)](#)  
[Fairleigh Dickinson University \(New Jersey\)](#)  
[George Mason University \(Virginia\)](#)  
[Georgetown University \(Washington D.C.\)](#)  
[Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies  
\\_\(Washington D.C.\)](#)  
[George Washington University – Graduate School of  
\\_ Education & Human Dev. \(Washington D.C.\)](#)  
[George Washington University – School of Medicine  
\\_ and Health Sciences \(Washington D.C.\)](#)  
[Husson University \(Maine\)](#)  
[Lesley University \(Massachusetts\)](#)  
[Notre Dame of Maryland University \(Maryland\)](#)  
[Point Park University \(Pennsylvania\)](#)  
[Rivier University \(New Hampshire\)](#)  
[Seton Hall \(New Jersey\)](#)  
[Sacred Heart University \(Connecticut\)](#)

[Saint Joseph's University \(Pennsylvania\)](#)  
[St. John's University \(New York\)](#)  
[Thomas Jefferson University \(Pennsylvania\)](#)  
[University of Delaware \(Delaware\)](#)  
[University of Scranton \(Pennsylvania\)](#)  
[Utica College \(New York\)](#)  
[Virginia Wesleyan University \(Virginia\)](#)  
[West Virginia State University \(West Virginia\)](#)  
[Widener University \(Pennsylvania\)](#)

## SOUTHEAST

[Campbellsville University \(Kentucky\)](#)  
[King University \(Tennessee\)](#)  
[Nova Southeastern University \(Florida\)](#)  
[Queens University of Charlotte \(North Carolina\)](#)  
[Point University \(Georgia\)](#)  
[Southeastern University \(Florida\)](#)  
[University of Kentucky \(Kentucky\)](#)  
[University of West Alabama \(Alabama\)](#)  
[University of West Florida \(Florida\)](#)  
[Winthrop University \(South Carolina\)](#)





## MIDWEST

[Aurora University \(Illinois\)](#)  
[Benedictine University \(Illinois\)](#)  
[Bethel University \(Minnesota\)](#)  
[Calvin University \(Michigan\)](#)  
[Concordia University – St. Paul \(Minnesota\)](#)  
[Concordia University – Nebraska \(Nebraska\)](#)  
[Drake University \(Iowa\)](#)  
[Greenville University \(Illinois\)](#)  
[Illinois College \(Illinois\)](#)  
[Lindenwood University \(Missouri\)](#)  
[Michigan State University](#)  
[Malone University \(Ohio\)](#)  
[Notre Dame College \(Ohio\)](#)  
[Northern Illinois University \(Illinois\)](#)  
[Purdue University \(Indiana\)](#)  
[Rockhurst University \(Missouri\)](#)  
[St. Ambrose University \(Iowa\)](#)  
[Shawnee State University \(Ohio\)](#)  
[Saint Mary's University of Minnesota \(Minnesota\)](#)  
[University of Iowa \(Iowa\)](#)  
[University of Saint Mary \(Kansas\)](#)

## SOUTHWEST

[East Central University \(Oklahoma\)](#)  
[Methodist University \(Texas\)](#)  
[Our Lady of the Lake University \(Texas\)](#)  
[University of Colorado Denver \(Colorado\)](#)

## WEST COAST

[Antioch University \(California\)](#)  
[Loyola University of Marymount Law School \(California\)](#)  
[University of the Pacific \(California\)](#)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

[East Oregon University \(Oregon\)](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

[University of Bath \(England\)](#)  
[University of Glasgow \(Scotland\)](#)  
[Nottingham Trent University \(England\)](#)  
[University of Birmingham \(England\)](#)  
[Vlerick Business School \(Belgium\)](#)

Explore other online degree offerings at [DegreesOnline.com](https://www.degreesonline.com)

Interested in partnering with Wiley Education Services? Visit our website at [edservices.wiley.com](https://edservices.wiley.com).

<sup>1</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>2</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/13/success/federal-student-loan-rates/index.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://plexuss.com/solutions/whitepaper/early-reactions-covid-19>

<sup>5</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>6</sup><https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/video/countdown-parents-students-entering-college-70345497>

<sup>7</sup><https://plexuss.com/solutions/whitepaper/early-reactions-covid-19>

<sup>8</sup><https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED595238.pdf>

<sup>9</sup><https://money.cnn.com/2018/05/24/news/economy/great-recession-college-graduates/index.html>

<sup>10</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>11</sup>Capranos, D. & Dyers, L. (2020). Online student behaviors and attitudes: A survey of prospective students, current learners, and recent graduates of Wiley Education Services' partners. Orlando, FL: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>12</sup>Magda, A.J., & Smalec, J.S. (2020). Student perspectives on online programs: A survey of learners supported by Wiley Education Services. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>13</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>14</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>15</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>16</sup>Clinefelter, D. L., Aslanian, C. B., & Magda, A. J. (2019). Online college students 2019: Comprehensive data on demands and preferences. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC June 2019

<sup>17</sup>Magda, A.J., & Smalec, J.S. (2020). Student perspectives on online programs: A survey of learners supported by Wiley Education Services. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>18</sup>Magda, A.J., & Smalec, J.S. (2020). Student perspectives on online programs: A survey of learners supported by Wiley Education Services. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

<sup>19</sup>Magda, A.J., & Smalec, J.S. (2020). Student perspectives on online programs: A survey of learners supported by Wiley Education Services. Louisville, KY: Wiley edu, LLC

