
An accredited online degree program could be perfect for you

By Richard Keir

With the growth of the internet and greatly increased access to high speed connections, the accredited online college degree program has flourished. Distance education used to be the province of mail order courses which were often either unaccredited or "self-accredited", but now the online accredited degree program is common. Just stay alert because not every program actually offers an online accredited degree and there is no point in wasting your time and money on an unaccredited degree.

Many traditional colleges and universities have yet to adapt to the current social realities. With the rising costs of education and the ever-growing number of students who are older and working in a profession or building a career, physically attending a college and classes can be difficult to impossible. For a college, it simply is not practical to offer enough physical classes and class times to suit every schedule. Even for those institutions that do offer evening and weekend classes, loading a full schedule of courses on top of a job, and having to get to and from classes and find time to do the homework can be a huge burden on a working student.

Now, however, providing multimedia courses on demand over the internet offers huge advantages to those who want to pursue a career degree online. Being able to 'attend' your classes at a time convenient to you, without a commute and the stress of trying to get there, find parking and rush to class can make the whole process so much more pleasant and easier to stick with. Email and instant messaging along with online teleconferencing or seminars can offer you contact with other students and faculty that can serve as further motivation - and make it far easier and quicker to get any of your questions answered.

Since classes and online seminars are recorded, you can watch more than once if the subject is difficult and requires extra effort. If you have ever suffered through a lecture trying to take notes while the presenter blasted through the material at light speed, you will really appreciate the opportunity to proceed at your own pace, stop and restart a presentation and come away with a really good grip on the material.

Using the internet to provide accredited online degree programs and certified training of various kinds, presents the working student with a magnificent opportunity to expand their skills, knowledge and employability while still making a living - and without an overload of stress. But you absolutely must make sure that whatever type of program you enroll in, it is accredited by an appropriate and recognized accrediting authority. Since the appropriate agency can vary, depending on the specific area of study, you need to do your own checking. College degree programs are usually accredited by one of the regional accrediting authorities in the United States. The specific authority usually depends on the physical location of the online college or university. Other types of accredited or credentialed online programs may be under the authority of a state agency or a state or national professional organization.

And, as an extra incentive, if your study is directly related to your job, you may find that your employer will pay part or even all of your expenses for an accredited online degree program.

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