ONLINE EDUCATION

Degree Program, Diploma & Certificate Programs

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Seeking higher education continues to be an important goal for many individuals. However, the way people are approaching this concept has changed over the years, mainly due to the advancements in technology and the popularity of the Internet. Online degree programs now offer an entirely new set of options for college bound students. Are you trying to figure out whether obtaining an online degree is the right choice for you? The following information will give you a better idea of what this type of education path entails as well as the numerous benefits you can expect.

What is an Online Degree Program?

It is a good idea to first learn what an **online degree program** is and how it differs from the traditional way of earning a degree. As the name implies, an online degree program is specially structured so that students can complete their college education via the Internet. The majority of the coursework, materials and textbooks are available in a digital format that students can download and use to do work and meet the requirements listed in order to obtain their degree. Because the curriculum is tailored for an online environment, there is no need for an individual to deal with a traditional campus setting. Any contact with an instructor is typically offered through an online chat, email and classroom forums, among other methods.

What is an Online University?

In order to get an online degree, a student has to enroll in an online university. Also commonly referred to as “distance learning,” this type of educational institution is one that provides an educational environment to cater to students that wish to pursue their college education in a virtual setting. This is done by offering degree programs, teaching methods and resources using the latest technologies. The popularity of this kind of university has risen tremendously over the years, leading to a crop of online universities that are now recognized around the world.

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The United States in particular, is one of the leaders in distance learning and is currently home to some of the top online universities: AIU Online, University of Phoenix, Capella Online University, Kaplan Online University and Westwood Online College.

Students have the ability to earn a variety of degrees through an online university, including an Associates, Bachelors, Masters and even a Doctoral degree. In addition to college bound students, working professionals and adults wishing to go back to school can also benefit from distance learning. In addition to the degree programs mentioned, many online universities also offer a wide selection of the most popular diploma/certificate programs to choose from.

Popular Degree Programs

As the popularity of distance learning rises, so does the demand for certain types of degree programs. Regardless of what career path you want to pursue, chances are there is an online degree program that will help you get your foot in the door and give you the training and experience needed.

Business

Have you always wanted to be one of the major players in a corporation? Have you dreamed of owning your own business one day? With **Business Degree Online** you can reach those goals and make your dreams a reality. Kaplan University is one of the many educational institutions that offer a variety of Business degree programs. From an AAS in Global Travel and Hospitality Management and a BS in Business Administration to an MBA in International Business or Project Management, there are many different ways to go after the career you've always wanted in the business world.

Education

Teaching is a huge job that requires a lot of time and commitment. However, the practices and techniques are constantly changing.

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Individuals that wish to become qualified educators can greatly benefit from obtaining their **Education Degree Online**. The University of Phoenix currently offers curriculums that reflect the most up to date theories and techniques to properly prepare future teachers with the skills necessary to foster a healthy learning environment and opportunities for their students. Students can choose from an AA in Elementary Education or an AA in Paraprofessional Education.

Graphic Design

Individuals with an artistic flair can find their true calling by getting an online degree in the **Graphic Design** industry. Westwood Online College happens to offer one of the most diverse selections of degree programs in this category. Some of the most notable include (but are not limited to): AA in Graphic Design and Multimedia, AA in Information Technology, BA in Animation, BA in Game Software Development and a BA in Web Design.

Students with degrees in any of these areas have the opportunity to jumpstart their career sooner than later.

Diploma & Certificate Programs

What makes attending an online university and obtaining a degree online so great is that it can also be tailored for working professionals that need to brush up on their skill set and position themselves for advancement in their job? Those in the workforce have the ability to complete an online certificate program. These types of programs can be completed in a short period of time and serves as a very impressive credential on a resume.

Villanova University provides many different online certificate programs that are specially designed to target the fastest growing disciplines in the business industry. Taking such a step in a person's career can result in a promotion, which can promise job security, great pay and a solid long-term career outlook.

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Project Management

An average project manager can quickly elevate his/her position in their company by obtaining **Project Management Certificate**. Both new and experienced project managers have the ability to choose from either a Master or Advanced Master Certificate in any of the following areas through Villanova University: Advanced Strategic Project Management, Applied Project Management, Maximizing Team Effectiveness, PMP Exam Prep and IS/IT Project Management.

Information Systems Security

As with Project Management, the field of **Information Systems Security** is another growing area that calls for the expertise of qualified and experienced individuals. Professionals currently employed in this position can choose from the following Masters and Advanced Master Certificate programs offered through Villanova University: Essentials of Information Systems Security, Information Assurance and Security and Information Security Management, to name a few.

Software Testing

To continue improving your skills as a software testing professional, completing a certificate program in this area is essential to demonstrating to your employer that you are competent when it comes to the latest testing techniques and principles. Those wishing to improve their skill set in **Software Testing** can choose from the following: Essentials of Software Testing, ISTQB® Software Testing Capstone and Master Certificate in Software Testing.

Other online universities have a variety of diploma and certificate programs that span across various subjects. For example, Strayer University allows students to obtain a diploma/certificate in Accounting, Computer Security, Database Management, Internetworking Technology and Web Development, while Penn Foster offers career diploma programs in the areas of Catering Dental Assisting, Administrative Assistant, Carpentry and Floral Design, among many others.

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Benefits

Online degree programs are popular for many reasons, namely the benefits that students get to enjoy. Convenience is one of the major advantages. Not everyone is suited for a classroom environment and distance learning gives a person the chance to seek higher education right from the privacy and comfort of their home. This means no commuting, paying for gas, dealing with parking or other related costs.

Another upside to this approach is the ability to set your own schedule with classes as well as learn at your own pace. Every person is different and with traditional classroom instruction, everyone has to adhere to one standard set by the instructor. However, distance learning gives each student the chance to personalize their educational experience.

Additionally, many degree and diploma/certificate programs can be completed in a short period of time. Some programs allow an individual to acquire the skills and training needed to get their dream job in as little as 18 months.

In order to find out whether an online degree program is right for you, it helps to do as much research as possible about this subject. The more information you know about the types of degree programs and online universities there are to choose from, the easier it will be for you to make a well-informed decision. Visiting **http://www.universitiesdegreeonline.com/** will give you all of the resources you'll need to find out not only which degree program would be best suited for your career goals and aspiration but which online university you should obtain your degree through as well. An extra perk to using this website in your research is that all of the content can be accessed free of charge.

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