

## 8 Reasons to Consider Online Learning

May 14, 2013 By Lori Johnston

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If you're wondering about online learning — can you get a job with that degree, is it more expensive than traditional school, is it only no-name schools that offer degree programs, etc. — today's your lucky day. We have eight reasons for you to consider online learning. Here are your answers to those pressing "click into college" questions...



**1. Online Learning is On the Rise** – You can take your pick of degrees! More than 12,000 kinds of degrees are offered from more than 275 accredited online universities.

**2. Classes are Convenient** – Scheduling flexibility of online classes is more often better than traditional classes.

**3. Online Schools are Ranked, Too** – There are many schools offering online degrees, but U.S. News & World Report's second annual survey stated these schools are the best for an online bachelor's degree:

1. Pace University (N.Y.)
2. Daytona State College (Fla.)
3. St. John's University (N.Y.)

**4. There Are More Online Students Than You May Think** – Thirty-one percent of higher education students – or 6.1 million — took at least one course online in Fall 2010. That was 560,000 more students than in 2009. Estimates show there could be 3.86 million online students by 2015. And by 2018, there could be more full-time students "going" to school online than in traditional classrooms.

**5. Online Learning Has Longevity** – Sixty-five percent of schools and universities have stated that online learning is part of their long-term strategy.

**6. It's Affordable** - Online learning is gaining strength partly because it's cheaper for students to learn and for traditional colleges and universities, many of which are in budget crunches, to provide instruction.

**7. Show Me the Jobs!!!** - It's OK, they will! Seventy-nine percent of organizations told the Society for Human Resource Management that they had hired a job applicant with an online degree in the previous 12 months. Not only do CEOs and business owners know about online degrees, 83 percent of executives said in a survey by Excelsior College and Zogby International that an online degree is as credible as one earned through a traditional campus-based program. In fact, 87 percent of employers viewed online degrees more favorably than the previous five years, another survey found.

**8. Proof Is in the Numbers** – Four out of the top five degrees earned online are also in the top five degrees earned on campus. And, four states (Alabama Florida, Michigan, and Virginia) require one completed online course for high school graduation.

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