

EDUCATION

Online Education can be an option

by Krystal Ward Carter



The Pro's and Con's on an Online Education.

For the past year the education articles have been geared towards preparing high school students for filling out college applications, admission exams, and informing them of scholarships. Although, these are all pressing issues that aren't explained thoroughly enough in high schools, I would now like to incorporate articles for the non-traditional student that is increasing in numbers every year. These students or older, more mature, hold additional employment, married with children or single with children. Thanks to Vinton Cerf, founding father of the internet having a job and a family no longer hinders one from pursuing a college degree or trade online. It is essential in our fast paced society prodded by technology. Before you jump into an online program I've offered some pro's and cons of an online degree program that will allow you to judge if it's really for you.

1. Convenience. There are quite a few pro's when it comes to getting an education online, especially the convenience. Taking courses online allows you to continue raising a family and continue with your vocation. You can decide when and how long you study by studying around your work, family, or social schedule. Since, going to campus is not a necessity you can catch up on your work whenever you're near a computer and you can set your own pace.
2. Less Expensive. Some

affordable than those offered at a university, college, or trade school, because you aren't incur the charges for use of the library, wellness center, and whatever charges they think to stick you with. Not to mention, you get to save on gas that you would use driving back and forth to class, the parking permits, or bus passes needed. This may also save on housing costs and meal plans since you don't have to live on campus.

3. Availability. Accredited, reputable, online education programs seem to increase by the day. Unlike having limited professors and classrooms you are more likely to find a class available online.

4. Better for Some Learners. Online education programs usually work out well for people who are visual learners and enjoy experimental exercises that require more time, language-challenged, or introverted. You don't have to worry about the professor calling you out in class to answer a question that you don't know the answer to or maybe you knew the answer but don't feel comfortable being put on the spot.

5. Tuition Assistance. The same federal, state, and private programs that provide loans and grants for traditional colleges provide financial aid for online education programs, too. These are the five most cited reasons that online education programs work out well, below are five reasons why online programs don't work for some of us.

1. Self-discipline is a must. It's easy to get behind in an online class especially when you're working and have a family. You can easily say "I've had a long day I'll get to it tomorrow," then when tomorrow arrives something else comes up. Before you know it, it'll be the end of the semester and you'll have a million projects and papers due in a short amount of time. From personal experience, online assignments are often more lengthy, because you don't have lecture with the professor.

2. No social interaction. If you're the type of student that enjoys study groups and interacting the classmates this may not be the route for you. Even if that's not you and you are used to class mates keeping you accountable you may want to reconsider choosing a program that's completely online. You will never meet any of your classmates or your professors face-to-face. However, to minimize the lack of social interaction you can enroll with a friend, join a meeting group with similar interests or ensure you have a support system-like family and friends.

3. No immediate feedback. In a typical college classroom, students raise their hands and

4. Limited subject matter. If you're interested in business, management, graphic design, IT, or criminal justice, to name a few, pursuing a degree online would work out fine. However, if you're interested in a career in the medical field or a airplane pilot you shouldn't expect to find these courses online. Seriously, would you want to see a doctor with an online degree? Definitely not, that requires hands-on experience.

5. Scams. Be careful never to send money into an online school unless you're sure it's legitimate. For instance, if there aren't any course outlines, faculty list, or degree program descriptions it's most likely a scam. If this is not obvious from the web site contact the owner or president to find out about their experience. The simplest way to check, would be to Google search the school name + fraud. Also, please don't get caught up in the accredited degrees without study programs. You basically them an ample amount to print out a diploma with your name on it and mail it to you. Not very smart, employers can catch onto this very fast. Online degree programs have opened doors for many people and offer a way for the non-traditional student to get ahead. Now that you know a few of the pros and cons now you can decide if it's for you. For more information on accredited online programs check out www.earnmydegree.com.

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