Undergraduate Considerations Amid COVID-19

While it's too soon to identify the long-term effects of COVID-19, it's clear the landscape for undergraduate students has changed dramatically and will continue to shift over time. See below for details on prospective students' considerations as they explore online degree options.

As students explore the possibility of pursuing a degree online, it is important to dispel common misconceptions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased interest in online learning because of social distancing and other advantages of the modality, such as flexibility and stability. It's important to inform prospective students about their options, and the ways a robust online degree program can keep their education on track.

For more student insights, access A Guide to Online Bachelor's Degrees Post Pandemic.

What are students’ (and their parents’) biggest concerns in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Why is online learning an excellent option for students?

Access More Insights

Affordability

Safety

Flexibility

MYTH

Online Education Is Limiting

One significant benefit of earning a degree online is that students can access a wealth of high-quality programs without leaving home. They also gain exposure to diverse perspectives while building a strong peer network with classmates from across the country, and, in some instances, around the world.

TRUTH

Learning Online Is Isolating

Most learning management systems (LMS) are designed with peer-to-peer and student-faculty collaboration in mind. Students can connect face-to-face via discussion forums, video tools, virtual office hours, and more.

TRUTH

Online Learning Is Inferior to On-Campus Programs

Online coursework provides engaging learning experiences that match the rigor and quality of campus-based programs, all delivered through easy-to-use portals.

TRUTH

Only Part-Time or Out-of-State Students Study Online

Online degrees are designed to cater to a range of student needs. The flexibility of these programs is appealing to a variety of students - whether they are a busy professional who lives five blocks from campus or a full-time student living out of state. These programs are less dependent on environmental or social circumstances.

TRUTH

Online Bachelor’s Degrees Aren’t as Credible

The majority of online degree programs share curriculum and faculty with their on-ground counterparts. Therefore, online programs offer the same prestige and quality as traditional degrees, only in a different format.

TRUTH

Stay on track to a degree

Students can keep their education moving forward while maintaining social distancing.

Transfer at any time

It's relatively easy for a student to transition from an online program to an on-campus program.

Maintain employment

The flexible schedule of online learning allows full-time students to work.

Ful/finish gen-ed requirements

Instead of taking a gap year, students can complete mandatory coursework now.

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