

## FIND THE BEST ONLINE COLLEGES FOR 2019

You may call it "online learning" or "distance education," but either way there's no denying that online colleges can be a flexible and convenient option for students. Whether you're a new or returning student – interested in beginning a degree program for the first time, completing the education you started elsewhere, or improving your career prospects by earning a degree – OnlineColleges.com can help you find affordable, high-quality online colleges that meet your specific needs.



Online Programs Offered [?](#)



Schools That Offer An Online Program [?](#)



Students Enrolled In An Online Program [?](#)

### FIND ONLINE COLLEGES

Select a Degree Level [▼](#)

Select a Category [▼](#)

Select a Subject [▼](#)

**Search**

SPONSORED SCHOOLS

From the experts who also bring you:



### WHAT ARE THE BEST ONLINE COLLEGES?

Here at OnlineColleges.com, your needs are important to us. When we rank online colleges, we place importance on factors that are relevant to nontraditional students – those who are more likely to be interested in attending college online. In addition to tuition costs and graduation rate, we consider factors such as number of fully online degree programs offered, the availability of tuition payment plans, and whether credit is offered for military or life experience.

### Quick Search

[Explore Online Colleges Offering Your Chosen Major!](#)

[What Are Online Colleges?](#)

[What Should I Know About Online Colleges?](#)

[Resources On OnlineColleges.com](#)

## EXPLORE ONLINE COLLEGES OFFERING YOUR CHOSEN MAJOR!



#### Art & Design

6 Online Programs



#### Business

17 Online Programs



#### Education

12 Online Programs



#### Engineering & Construction

4 Online Programs



#### Health Care & Nursing

20 Online Programs



#### Hospitality & Culinary Arts

2 Online Programs



#### Law & Criminal Justice

8 Online Programs



#### Liberal Arts & Humanities

7 Online Programs



#### Science

3 Online Programs



#### Social Science

8 Online Programs



#### Technology & IT

8 Online Programs



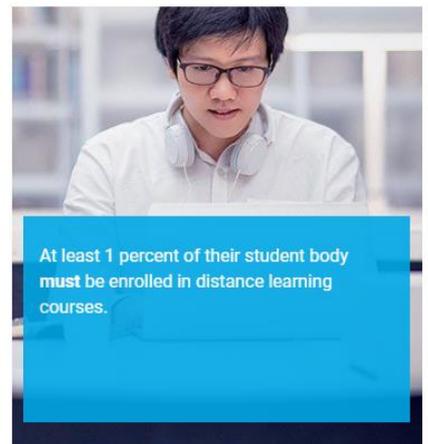
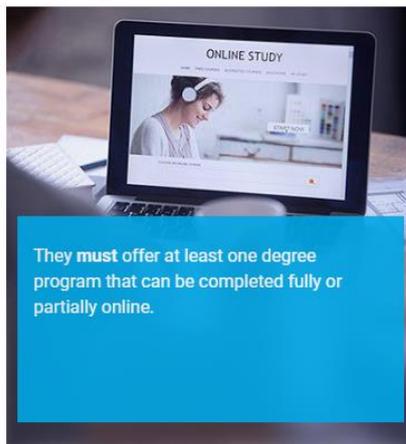
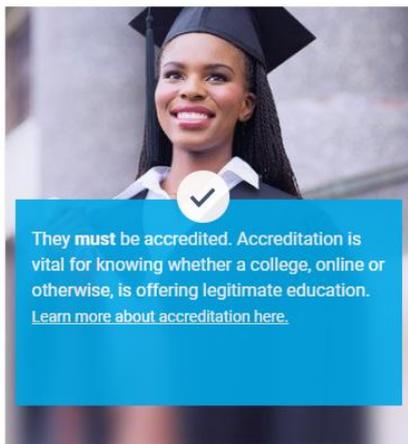
#### Vocational

3 Online Programs

# WHAT ARE ONLINE COLLEGES?

**What is an online college?** Here at OnlineColleges.com, we don't define an "online college" as a college that only exists on the internet. An online college might have a physical campus, or no campus at all. It might run on a semester system, or a quarter system, or its own unique system. It might offer one online degree program, or a hundred. Every student's needs are different, and every student should decide what kind of college best meets their individual needs.

In order for a school to be featured on our rankings and in our tools, they must meet the following criteria:



## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT ONLINE COLLEGES?

### Similarities to traditional colleges:

- ✓ Quality of education
- ✓ Rigor of study
- ✓ Credibility of degree
- ✓ Wide range of programs
- ✓ Communicating with instructors
- ✓ Connecting with classmates

### Advantages to online colleges:

#### FLEXIBILITY



With fewer constraints on time and place, students can organize their studies to learn whenever and wherever is convenient for them.

#### AFFORDABILITY



If you have your heart set on a school in another city or state, see if that school offers online programs. Attending that school may be easier than you think!

#### NO NEED TO MOVE



Commuting costs may be less relevant if you are attending school online. Some colleges even charge in-state tuition for online students, regardless of a student's state of residence.

#### ACCESSIBILITY



Health or mobility issues can make navigating a campus a difficult proposition. An online program can allow a student to focus on their education without such challenges.

## ONLINE COLLEGES:

### Who's a Match for Online Colleges?



#### Students with Family Commitments

Family priorities such as a child or a sick parent to care for can make it difficult to commit to regular campus attendance. An online program can be a more doable prospect.



#### Returning Students

Students returning to school after a long absence might feel more comfortable getting back into academics from the comfort of their own home, rather than in a crowded classroom.



#### Working Professionals

Working professionals can have unpredictable schedules, or be sent off on long business trips on short notice. A flexible online program can help with working around a busy career.



#### Students Who Learn Differently

Not all students perform well in a rigid academic schedule. For example, students who work better at night might appreciate being able to set their own timetable and change it when necessary, rather than running on school-regulated hours.

For more information, check out our article [How Credible Are Online Colleges to Employers?](#)

### Types of Online Degree Programs:



#### ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- Undergraduate and graduate options may be available, depending on school and major
- Usually a year or less to complete
- Emphasizes real-world skills and career-relevant education



#### ONLINE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

- Undergraduate level
- Usually takes two years to complete
- Combines major-specific courses with a broad overview of general education topics



#### ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM

- Undergraduate level
- Usually takes four years to complete
- Starts with core education and lower-division courses, transitions to upper-division courses



#### ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

- Graduate level
- Duration varies
- Delves into theory and high-level concepts through upper-division courses



#### ONLINE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM

- Graduate level
- Duration varies
- The pinnacle of recognized education, focused on in-depth research and critical thought



#### DID YOU KNOW?

The first fully online college to be accredited was Jones International University, which was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission in 1993.

[Source](#)

## Online Course Delivery:



### SYNCHRONOUS:

Lecture is held at fixed times like an on-campus class, through online chat or video conferencing. This can be useful to students who prefer a regulated class schedule.



### ASYNCHRONOUS:

Lectures are typically pre-recorded and can be watched online. This can be preferable for students who are looking for full flexibility in their course schedule.



### HYBRID:

Online lectures and assignments are mixed with in-person responsibilities. This may involve going to campus or utilizing a local facility or proctor.

\*For more information, see our [Online Education Glossary](#).

## RESOURCES ON ONLINECOLLEGES.COM

### Best Online Colleges by State

Finding the best school for each individual is our mission at OnlineColleges.com. And who knows your needs better than you do? That's why we've developed the following resources, which can help you to find the school with the quality, the programs and the price point you need.

**It may surprise you** to know that 72 percent of online students attend a school within 100 miles of home. After all, with schools around the world only a click away, why stay local? As it happens, there are some good reasons to search for online colleges in your state:

- **You may understand a local college's reputation, quality and atmosphere better than that of out-of-state college.**
- **In many cases, the availability of financial aid is based on your state of residence rather than your school's.**
- **Depending on your choice of program and courses, you may need to visit your school's campus to take an important test or attend a crucial lab.**

For these reasons, we've taken the time to rank the best colleges for each and every state in America. On each state page, you can find a list of the best online colleges in that state, along with state-specific information on accreditation and financial aid.



ARKANSAS	MARYLAND	OREGON
CALIFORNIA	MASSACHUSETTS	PENNSYLVANIA
COLORADO	MICHIGAN	RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT	MINNESOTA	SOUTH CAROLINA
DELAWARE	MISSISSIPPI	SOUTH DAKOTA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	MISSOURI	TENNESSEE
FLORIDA	MONTANA	TEXAS
GEORGIA	NEBRASKA	UTAH
HAWAII	NEVADA	VERMONT
IDAHO	NEW HAMPSHIRE	VIRGINIA
ILLINOIS	NEW JERSEY	WASHINGTON
INDIANA	NEW MEXICO	WEST VIRGINIA
IOWA	NEW YORK	WISCONSIN
KANSAS	NORTH CAROLINA	WYOMING

## TOOLS TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT ONLINE COLLEGE



### College Comparison Tool

There's a lot to keep in mind when choosing an online college. Use our College Comparison Tool to select and compare schools you are considering. The tool displays details about online colleges – such as tuition costs, number of online programs and availability of services – in easily comparable columns.

### ADD SCHOOLS TO COMPARE

Select Schools	Your Selection
<input type="text" value="University of California-Berkeley"/>	ex. Harvard University
<input type="text" value="Columbia University"/>	ex. Harvard University
<input type="text" value="Harvard University"/>	ex. Harvard University

\*If a school does not appear when its name is typed into the "Select Schools" field, this is likely because the school offers online courses, but not fully online programs

## ONLINE COLLEGE ARTICLES

### The Best of Online Colleges

**Discover** our additional rankings of accredited online colleges based on different interesting factors, as well as rankings for other topics, such as popular degrees and growing careers.



### 25 Best Online Colleges in 2019-20

Maryalene LaPonsie | January 5, 2019

Choose the best online college for you with data from our ranking.

[READ MORE](#)

Rankings  
OnlineColleges.com



### 20 Best Online Colleges for Adults Going Back to School in 2019-20

Maryalene LaPonsie | March 20, 2019



### 10 High-Paying Careers for Math Lovers in 2019-20

Megan Horner | October 31, 2019

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## Financial Aid

Learn about grants, loans, scholarships and other common hallmarks of financial aid, such as the FAFSA. This section also offers advice on where to find financial aid and how best to utilize it.



### Going Back to College? 6 Things to Know About Financial Aid

Kenya McCullum | November 1, 2017

Financial aid can be complicated, but these 6 tips are simple.

[READ MORE](#)

## Online Colleges Insights

Find test-taking tips, glossaries, academic guides, career advice and other information that doesn't fall into one of our other sections.



### Ultimate Guide: Applying to Online Colleges for First-Time Students

Maryalene LaPonsie | July 4, 2019

First time applying for college? Let's walk through the process.

[READ MORE](#)



### Ultimate Guide to the FAFSA

Maryalene LaPonsie | February 21, 2019



### Planning for a Strong Start at Your Online College

Anna Baluch | June 17, 2019



### Guide to Financial Aid for Christian Students

OnlineCollege.com Staff | February 14, 2019



### Top 10 Questions to Ask Your Academic Advisor

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