

Published based on [Online Accelerated Degree Programs: An Unequaled Alternative For The Non-Traditional College Student](#)

Online Accelerated Degree Programs: An Unequaled Alternative For The Non-Traditional College Student

Shockingly, the percentage of Americans over 25 years old who hold college degrees has risen to an all-time high of 28%, according to the U. S. Census Bureau. Going to college pays off financially. Holding a bachelor's degree increases a person's yearly earnings twofold compared to a person with a high school diploma. A master's degree holder will make \$1.3 million more than a person with a high school diploma over his or her entire career. Thanks to the Internet, location and responsibilities no longer stand in the way of anyone who wants to pursue a college degree. Students who want to finish college more quickly can do so by working on accelerated online degrees.

Many adults who went to work straight out of high school contemplate returning to school to earn a college degree. Why is this? For some, they want a career change. For others, they see a college degree as a way to update their skills and earn more money. Non-traditional college students have different needs than students entering college directly after high school. The non-traditional students need [flexible education programs](#) that they can work at their own paces. They need to be able to fit classes into an already busy schedule. And, like traditional college students, they often need financial assistance, a choice of majors and a college that is accredited by a recognized accrediting organization.

The characteristics of online college degree programs match the needs of the non-traditional student. Accredited colleges and universities offer associates, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in a wide variety of subjects. These include elementary education, library science, math, criminal justice, psychology and counseling, accounting, human resource management and many more.

Flexibility is also very important to students returning to school. College classes must mesh with already established outside obligations with family and work. This flexibility is built in to online learning. Using a variety of media, online studies can be conducted at the convenience of the student. Some classes do require "class time," but not necessarily for every class session.

In addition to flexibility, non-traditional students also need flexibility in the speed at which they proceed through the program. Some students want to complete their programs as quickly as possible and are willing to take the maximum number of classes allowed per grading period. Other students may need to take more time to complete the entire program. Both can be accommodated by online colleges.

Students in an accelerated program can complete their degrees in about half the usual time, approximately two years. People considering an accelerated option must realize going in that the program will be twice as rigorous as the non-accelerated path. It is important that students can handle the stepped-up pace. Not everyone is able to accommodate such a program into his or her schedule.

Going to school online is such a wonderful alternative to attending school on campus. Programs have the flexibility that non-traditional students require. These are [less expensive degrees](#) and the degrees from accredited colleges and universities are accepted by employers without issue.

Accelerated online degrees offer freedom to anyone interested in pursuing higher education. All of the barriers to pursuing a college education evaporate in the face of the Internet. Any student with access to a computer and the Internet can earn a post-secondary degree. This may have been an impossible dream for some only 15 years ago.

Do you prefer non-traditional college education ? Get the super inside skinny on [accelerated online degrees](#) in our guide to the best [fast online degrees](#) .

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