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# **Going To College Online Is A Wise Choice These Days!**

It seems more and more people are going online. Whether they are signing up with Facebook or posting their band's latest video on MySpace, the online world has become so dense it's no longer being called "the Web" and the newest jargon is calling it "the cloud". A report just released by the Sloan Consortium now says education is going the same way, which makes the convenience of online schools a favorite for all students.

The article interviewed every institute of higher learning they could. Sloane reports of the 18.2 million college students getting higher education, 4.6 million were now taking e-learning. This was a 17% growth. At the same time, land-based universities only saw 1.2% growth over the same period. 82% of the virtual scholars were also undergraduates. Making matters more interesting, 75% of the virtual schools have increased the diversity what they teach and 66% of the same learning centers are creating newer courses meet student demands for this virtual schooling. If you need more information about [online degree programs](#), look on the internet. ?

One of the key reasons for this major growth is the current economic downturn. Many of the students admit they are taking classes to improve their prospects in the working world. Last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the college graduate earns \$52,000 annually compared to a high school grad's \$30,000 a year. The four-year grad also has easier access to key benefits such as health insurance and retirement programs. To these, getting a Bachelor's degree just makes solid economic sense.

They are also going online for many of the reasons e-schools have been touting for some time. The biggest reason is savings; it's now well documented that online schools cost 40% less than their brick and mortar counterpart. In these days of making every penny count, that is a significant discount.

Then there's managing one's time. A considerable number of college students these days are also holding jobs and have families. They don't have the time to commute to a school and back home. Going online allows them to put the kids to bed, slip into a bathrobe and get comfortable before taking their class. Believe it or not, there was another study, not by Sloane, that said learning this way increases student retention.

The third reason the report cited may also be a sign of the times, and that is many of the students interviewed cited their fear of getting the flu from others as a key reason. They are afraid of getting the H1N1 from their fellow classmates. With online education, they are able to stay "safe" from possible contagion. To some, this might sound a bit paranoid, but one could also call this a product of the current environment. There is an abundance of information about [university distance learning degree](#) on the web.

The schools themselves aren't the only ones studied in the report, the college professors had a thing or two to contribute. To their students, the thing they liked the most was the informal mentoring and training courses the facilities provided. The report also noted a 30% increase in approval amongst all working professors compared to previous studies.

So it appears that [online programs](#) ave truly taken hold with students. Time will tell how far this trend will go, but it looks like getting a [degree program online](#) is something students are giving a lot of thought about.

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