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Those Earning College Degrees Online Rise In Troubled Economy!

At a time when unemployment rates are high and the economy is low, community colleges that offer associate degrees are said to be growing in programs and enrollment numbers online and on campus. Whether the student is new out of high school or a returning student in their 40's, earning college degrees online is growing in popularity.

Students who participate in associate degree studies these days might be able to select programs intended to help fill local jobs and worldwide demands. It's a pretty established fact that getting that degree (and advancing further, if possible) is the best way to get a job in this competitive climate. If you need more information about [distance learning degrees](#), look on the internet.

Community colleges can be cost-effective, and when the economy worsens, these colleges tend to see enrollment increases, the Pew Research Center noted. But this new spike in enrollment might also be attributed to record proportion of young adults who have graduated high school or completed equivalency tests, as well as low dropout rates and unemployment being the highest it's been in more than a quarter of a century, according to the research center. A WWJ Radio Great Lakes IT Report noted also that displaced workers are seeking career changes and that new government incentives are encouraging people to return to school.

Between October 2007 and 2008, the number of young adults ages 18 to 24 enrolled in community college rose from 3.1 million to 3.4 million, the Pew Research Center reported. There are findings that community college enrollment in states such as Rhode Island and Michigan is reaching record rates locally and comprising as much as 44 percent of all college enrollments throughout the country. This was suggested by reports from the Providence Journal and Great Lakes IT Report respectively.

Students also are turning to online community college offerings in substantial numbers, a Sloan Consortium report noted. Their enrollments over a five-year period accounted for more than half of all online college course enrollments, with nearly 2 million students in fall 2006 taking at least one online associate degree program class, according to the report published in 2007.

Looking ahead to 2018, a Bureau of Labor Statistics report suggests that occupations requiring that employees have some higher education are expected to experience higher rates of growth than those that call for on-the-job training. Occupations requiring an associate degree are anticipated to grow fastest, the report shows. Among the fastest growing occupations requiring an associate degree or less are those that, in 2008, saw median annual earnings of \$19,180 to \$46,140. These would include home health, home care and physical therapy aides, dental hygienists, veterinary technicians and dental, medical and physical therapy assistants, according to the report.

In Rhode Island, the community college is working on programs in areas expected to meet current and future demands throughout the state, the Providence Journal article noted. And a May article in the Lane Report, a Kentucky business publication, told of a growing college program that takes classes to areas where students live and work, including at their actual job sites. Through the program, the Lane Report noted, students can earn an associate degree in as few as 20 months. There is an abundance of information about [distance learning college degree](#) on the web.

The time associated with obtaining a degree can affect the number of people who succeed in doing so, according to an expert cited in the May/June edition of Washington Monthly. The article told of Tennessee's community college system, where technology centers with strong graduation rates and positive job placement services offer one-year certificate programs in fields that are in high demand.

The ability to earn [distance learning degrees](#) works for every student in every life situation. The flexibility of study is a main attractant, one that is appealing all the way through to those participating in [masters degrees online](#) as they continue to work at their busy careers.

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