

Published based on [Accelerated Online Degree Programs: A Sound Alternative For The Non-Traditional University Student](#)

# **Accelerated Online Degree Programs: A Sound Alternative For The Non-Traditional University Student**

The United States Census Bureau reports that 28% of American adults over 25 have earned a bachelor's degree. That degree has a big impact on their financial futures. People with bachelor's degrees earn twice as much per year as their high school graduate counterparts. A master's degree pays off even more, earning \$1.3 million more over a lifetime compared to a high school graduate. Getting a college degree is much easier than it was 15 or 20 years ago. The Internet has made it possible for colleges and universities to offer their programs online. Some of these programs, the accelerated online degrees, enable the student to complete a degree in a very short period of time.

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 class schedules](#) 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.

The ability to work through the program at his or her own pace is also essential to the non-traditional student. A student might want to complete his or her degree as quickly as he or she can. For other students, an accelerated program is out of the question. Online college degree programs easily accommodate both of these needs.

The average online bachelor's degree can be completed in three to five years; however, accelerated online degrees can often be completed in only two years. In order to complete a bachelor's degree in two years, the student must usually take classes year round. The time necessary to work on classes will be greater and the student who is considering a two-year bachelor's degree needs to be aware that completing a degree in half the usual time will take a dedicated and concerted effort on his or her part. If this type of effort cannot be achieved because of outside responsibilities, the student may want to enroll in a degree program that progresses at a more typical pace.

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 pretty much the [cheapest degrees you can get](#) and the degrees from accredited colleges and universities are accepted by employers without issue.

Accelerated college degrees can be worked on from anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet. It does not matter if you live in a rural area without access to a traditional college or if you have outside responsibilities that prevent you from attending classes. The Internet erases all of these barriers. Now you can fulfill a lifelong dream of earning a college degree by going to school online.

Do you favor non-traditional college education ? Get the super low down on [accelerated education programs](#) in our guide to the best [fast online degrees](#) .

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