

Published based on [If You Have Access To A Computer, You Can Go To College!](#)

# **If You Have Access To A Computer, You Can Go To College!**

For those who grew up commuting to a campus every day, the online experience might be a shock. They don't know the difference between a PC or a Mac and are all but clueless about Explorer, Firefox or Linux. If you ask them what kind of software or if they have Wi-Fi and they'll give you a glazed look. As for streaming videos? Well, that's great for YouTube, but taking classes with them is a completely alien concept.

Still, they know if they continue their education, their ability to advance in this tough economy increases dramatically. They just don't have a clue, or the confidence, about doing it online. There is an abundance of information about [distance learning universities](#) on the web.

For starters, online colleges have now been at it for several decades. Over this time they've learned how to make accessing their resources as easy as possible for their students, and are more than willing to help. One of the ways they do this is by simplifying their procedures and how class work is done. This includes one's hardware and software.

So when looking for what kind of computer you should use, probably the most important component to consider is the modem. It should be fast enough to handle DSL, Wi-Fi or something similar. Fortunately, all computers, even refurbished ones, have that. Online colleges also don't care what kind of browser you use. So whether you have a PC or Mac, use Explorer or Firefox, that point is moot.

Probably the most important thing is that all virtual schools use a "course management system", "learning management system" or "virtual learning environment". The main ones are Blackboard, eCollege and Moodle. All these programs are quite intuitive and the school will teach you how to navigate it.

Another thing is that lessons are assembled in either Microsoft Word or Adobe. All PC's have Word as part of their basic package. If the lesson is in Adobe, it's available for free. As these programs have also been around for decades, they are also fairly intuitive. Just don't be surprised if every so often you also have to read a real book. They still have their value in this virtual age. There is an abundance of information about [online university](#) on the web.

Once online, what the new student will soon learn to love is video and audio streaming. With DSL or Wi-Fi at hand, one will soon realize they can watch the videos or listen to the podcasts as often as they like, without their computers constantly having to reload.

From there, about the only thing one really has to do is having enough self-discipline to study from home and complete their [online courses](#). Once you do, you'll find navigating around your [online degree programs](#) is a piece of cake...which you can have while studying, as well.

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