

Ten Key Benefits of Online Learning

1) Work from anywhere, at any time

This is the most appealing benefit of online education for students with many duties to balance. Since everything is available online, accessing class materials and submitting work is very convenient. Exactly when and where this takes place is up to student, as long as assignment due dates are met.

2) Review lectures instantly

It's easy for minds to wander during a lecture. University of California psychologist Jonathan Schooler found that students lose focus about 5 times in a 45-minute class session. In many online programs, however, students can review words from professors instantly, either by rewinding the audio or video or by reading the transcript that accompanies the lecture.

3) Less intimidating

Many students in classroom environments aren't comfortable speaking in public. In an online environment, it can be much easier to share thoughts with others. With 74 percent of people suffering from speech anxiety, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, online education tends to foster better class participation.

4) More time to think before sharing

Online schooling still has a discussion element to it, often in a forum or discussion board. On-campus students have to choose a stance or formulate a thought in class quickly, and sometimes speak before they've fully examined everything. In an online environment, students can spend as much time as they want thinking about and honing their own ideas. This can lead to greater confidence and more elegant discussions.

5) Focus on ideas

With an estimated 93 percent of communication being non-verbal, online students don't have to worry about body language interfering with their message. While body language can be effective sometimes, academics are more about ideas, and online education eliminates physical judgments that can cloud rational discussion.

6) Flexible learning schedule

On-campus students may have to endure in-person lectures that last hours. While not all online programs are built the same, many use PowerPoint presentations and other media that students can digest in pieces. In other words, a student can experience the first half of a lesson one day, and the second half the next day. This can be especially helpful for those who don't enjoy sitting in one place for too long.

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7) Cost

Although the cost of an online course can be as much or more than a traditional course, (often they are not) students can save money by avoiding many fees typical of campus-based education, including lab fees, commuting costs, parking, hotel, eating out, and more.

8) Diversity

Traditional students are often limited to courses and teachers close to home. The online student can take specialized courses / certificate programs from any teacher without having to leave home.

9) Instructor availability

At traditional colleges and universities, talking to an instructor after class can be challenging. Yes, instructors have office hours, but it's often only an hour or two each week, with too many students waiting for attention. While those who teach online may also have set hours for student interaction, web-based technologies make conversing with multiple students at once much easier. Instructors can also hop online at night or during intermissions to address questions, leave comments and more.

In recent years this form of education has evolved and is widely accepted. You monitor your study environment with an online class, which allows you to gain a more profound understanding of your course. New learning models are constantly emerging on the market and give students various ways to fashion their education into something that suits them, not the rest. This also gives individuals a chance to complete a degree that they may have started and have not been able to continue for whatever reason. The future of online learning is exciting and opens education for a significant number of people.

10) Online learning is becoming more acceptable

There is more of a shift by organizations from educational provided from a traditional colleges and universities to education that is more focused towards the needs of business. Businesses worldwide have challenged education providers to create more courses / programs for the changing pace of the global commerce.