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**Online Associates Degree Leads To Various Career Paths**

**By Andy West**

Back in the late eighties and early nineties there was a push by local government to boost the

number of vocational programs in high school. The idea was to give those not planning on going to college a crack at earning a better living. While this program seemed to underpin the absolute need for alternative educational reform in the country, there still was a problem with people that didn't want to fix cars, or be the next town plumber. For those that got stuck in the middle there was not much to do but make a choice between a vocational program or to attend college. Today there is the wonderful online associates degree that has been proven to lead towards a wide spectrum of jobs worthy of many 4 year degree program graduates. Those in high school, or in limbo after high school have a path to follow that is commonly referred to as obtaining an associates degree. This degree is known to provide valuable instruction to those that enroll in the program with the desire to land a job that is high paying, and as secure as any job on the market today.

For those wishing to make a better life for themselves and their family there is nothing like an online associates degree to boost their career. While there are still hurdles financially for those attempting to earn an online associates degree on their own, with no additional support, it also can be the catalyst that can lead to better opportunities in the future if they are able to gut out the hard times that come with attending any college program. This means that the sacrifices put in now will be translated into success later on due to the new opportunities that will arise from the degree. Any reputable online associates degree program will have a career services department that will help guide you in the right direction in order to best help those that are in need of a steady job with higher pay than the current position the student has currently.

Another benefit to enrolling in an online associates degree program in terms of the career possibilities is that the computer is becoming more prevalent in the money making business world. Think about how many occupations use the personal computer in at least some fashion? Is it not a benefit then that you will be gaining your education via this same device? Of course it is, and you will be better prepared to handle the computer, and online applications no matter what your specialty is, because the bottom line is your program is teaching you to learn online, and utilize a computer in ways other associate degree graduates do not.

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Yet another great way that an online associates degree can reward those that enroll in the program is the specialty programs geared toward high paying jobs. In fact the associates degree is one of the most career focused degrees one can earn at any level of education. The online associates degree focuses on the aspect that the workforce is a commodity based economy that pays more for in demand jobs, and reacts to provide the student with such an opportunity to get training in any high demand field that exists today. The approval process for online associates degree programs is less stringent than other educational programs, and allows the institution to create a program in reaction to the needs of employers, which could mean that you will end up graduating with multiple job offers.

Andy West is a freelance writer for Virginia College. Virginia College Online offers many online associate degree programs. Please visit Virginia College Online at

<http://www.vconline.edu/index.cfm>

to select the online program that is right for you.

### **College Degree at Home ...why go to college?**

**By Peter J. Loughlin, J.D., LL. M**

Finding the right college degree at home program can be one of the most confusing and important decisions you'll ever make. There are accredited online colleges, unaccredited schools and universities, privately accredited institutions, foreign accreditation and so on. For some adult learners accreditation may not be important but it can be an essential element if your goal is to enter a career that demands your college degree at home (or elsewhere) be "fully accredited."

You need then to consider if your online college degree at home will be sufficient to enter your chosen career or advanced study in a profession such as law, medicine, business, engineering, psychology, etc. It all depends upon your needs and ultimately the requirements of your intended profession. While some unaccredited college degree programs are outstanding, you don't want to waste two to four years or more (plus a lot of money) only to find out your degree will not be acceptable to an employer or graduate program.

Many adult earners enroll in online college degree programs not to earn a degree, but rather to earn a certificate or diploma demonstrating their expertise in a particular field of study. In fact, this is probably a very good way of testing the waters to see if an online college degree or a particular distance learning college is for you and is compatible with your expectations.

Don't overlook the fact that you may already have racked up some college credit for your life experience. Yes, that's right, many college degree at home programs will offer you an opportunity to have your experiences and skills evaluated to see if they qualify for college credit. Why not take full advantage of this option? Who knows, you may already have earned an associates degree and be well on your way to completing a bachelor degree.

Associate degrees are typically two-year college degrees, but by having your experiential learning

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evaluated and perhaps taking a few credit by examination tests such as CLEP, DANTES, and other such programs, you can accelerate your online college degree—and your career. And, don't forget that the same strategy will work for a four-year program as well. Some traditional colleges also offer credit by examination, but, by and large, the college degree by distance learning programs are more open to this concept.

In summary, you must choose the right college degree at home program. It is well worth the effort of checking out any college before you enroll and risk your time and money. Be certain that your university is one that will meet your career and professional goals and, more importantly, one that will ultimately satisfy YOU. Gather all the information you can about the distance learning college offering degrees in your area of interest. Learn about their credit by examination programs and policy on awarding credit for experiential learning.

Why go to college when you can earn a college degree at home!

Peter J. Loughlin achieved his dream of becoming a lawyer using only distance learning. Now he helps others achieve their dreams at

<http://www.LawSchool>

Bible.com and

<http://www.MaxStudy.com>



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