



Learn If an Accelerated Degree Program Right for You

Description

If you're considering returning to school to complete your degree, you may have considered an accelerated degree program and wondered if it's suitable for you.



On the plus side, getting your degree faster would be ideal. But, on the other hand, can your current way of life take the extra work?

Let's look at accelerated degree programs and see what we can learn.

QUESTIONS? WE HAVE SOLUTIONS!

What is the definition of an accelerated degree program? If you enroll in an accelerated degree program, you can complete your bachelor's degree in as little as 16 months. Because classes are compressed, a shorter timeline is possible. Instead of 16-week regular college sessions, accelerated program programs are substantially shorter, ranging from five to twelve weeks, with the average being approximately eight weeks.

Depending on how many education prerequisites you've already completed and whether your institution gives adults credit for work and life experience, you could be able to complete your degree in less than 18 months. For further information, speak with an advisor at your preferred institution.

Is it true that accelerated programs cover less material than regular classes? No, not at all. The classes are condensed, but the content is not. You'll learn the same amount of material in less time. That is why you must be certain that you can handle the faster schedule in addition to your other commitments. If you choose an accelerated program, you should prepare to complete many homework and study in your spare time.

Are the accelerated program classes only available online? It depends on the school and the program; however, many schools offer students the following options for attending classes:

All of the online classes

All evening and weekend classes on campus

A combination of online and on-campus classes

Because many accelerated program students are working adults, onsite classes are frequently timed to coincide with traditional working hours.

Be honest with me: will I be the oldest in the class?

Our honest response: There's a good chance you'll have a large number of classmates in your broad age range and living condition. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 7.4 million of the 19.9 million college students (more than a third) will be 25 or older in Fall 2019. And students aged 35 and up are becoming more prevalent, with 3.5 million enrolled in 2018—a figure predicted to rise by 2025.

How do I decide between online and in-person classes?

Everyone's experience is unique in this scenario; thus, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. However, to assist you in making the best selection for your situation, consider the following advantages of each:

Online courses

Because you are not required to be in a certain classroom at a specific time, you can study and work

on your assignments in the morning before work, at lunchtime, and even in the middle of the night if it fits your schedule.

You can access your lessons from any location; all you need is an internet connection and a browser to access the classroom and discussion boards.

Convenience

There are no gas bills, no hour-long commute after a hard workday, and no after-class drive home at 10 p.m. in a snowstorm or other poor weather. Instead, you can go home, enjoy dinner with your family, and then “attend” class on the couch in your PJs or sweatpants.

Choice—Because so many universities offer online classes, you aren’t confined to what’s in your neighborhood. You don’t have to uproot your life to attend a college across town, across the state, or even across the nation.

Cost

While this will vary by school, because online programs do not require actual classrooms and all related expenditures, tuition may be less than a traditional curriculum. (Of course, financial aid, grants, and scholarships are available to accelerate/adult students as well, but every little bit helps.)

Classes held in person

Structure

Once you receive your course syllabus, it is up to you to remember everything and keep on track. In-person sessions provide greater structure, physical cues, and reminders, which might be beneficial to a student balancing school, a job, and family duties.

If you thrive on the energy of a classroom—human connection with peers, the instructor at the front of the classroom where you can see and hear their body language, mannerisms, tone, and so on—a physical classroom may be your best bet.

Interaction

Having in-person classes, especially at a small college, means having more opportunity and time to engage with instructors, advisors, and everyone else on campus. Smaller colleges are also more likely to collaborate with you if something does not fit “between the lines.”

Community

Several smaller private universities have begun to offer accelerated degree programs. Not only does this keep you active in your neighborhood, but the smaller class sizes and lower student-to-instructor

ratio create a “community-within-a-community,” sometimes with individuals you already know.

Accreditation

While this applies to all colleges, brick-and-mortar schools have a modest advantage. For instance, most scammers are unlikely to go to the trouble of establishing a full physical campus. In contrast, anyone can throw up an impressive-looking website that teaches you nothing and issues bogus degrees. So do your homework and ensure that the institution or program you’re interested in is accredited. The U.S. Department of Education’s Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs is a great place to start.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP

You’re at a fork in the road, which, let’s face it, maybe frightening. But isn’t it also thrilling to know that just one step—the first one—will place you solidly on the path to the life you’ve imagined for yourself and your family?

Decisions of this magnitude require a sound plan, and perhaps what we’ve put out here will provide you with the beginnings of one. We also hope you’re reassured that if you decide to return to school for your degree, you’ll be in good company. The key is to remember that your learning style will heavily influence the type of accelerated program that works best for you. So, be truthful with yourself about what you want and need, and don’t be scared to go after it.

Category

1. Education

Date Created

February 2022

Author

tcanoah