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The computer engineering field is always growing and needs technologically-savvy individuals to be a part of this rapidly-changing industry. There is nothing more appropriate than earning your computer engineering degree online – you have the very tool that you'll use day in and day out right at your fingertips!

## **Computer Programming**

As technology continues to evolve and the need for more specialized software arises, computer programmers are required to create source codes for computer programs. With a degree in computer programming, you will not only be relied upon to create new source codes but also to maintain and repair existing programs for organizations small and large.

Earning your degree in computer programming will enable you to write, test, troubleshoot, and maintain detailed instructions, or source codes, for computer programs. Coursework typically includes programming languages such as Java, COBOL or C++, operating systems, databases, and application development and testing.

Your computer programming degree will enable to you work as a highly-trained computer programmer, systems analyst, or developer for any major organization or give you the skills and technical expertise you need to succeed on your own as a consultant.

## **Computer Science**

With computers and technology being the backbone of every major organization, it is important to make sure that software running on this technology is operating smoothly and seamlessly. Your computer science degree prepares you for a profession that is required by every major organization.

With a computer science degree, you'll learn a solid foundation in the basic theories that support much of computer software technology. Coursework typically includes programming languages, databases, networking, software engineering, algorithms, architecture, and operating systems.

A computer science degree can open the doors to careers such as software system designing, programming, systems analysis, software engineering or give you the technical expertise and skills you need to succeed on your own as a Software Consultant.

## **Information Technology**

Information technology, or IT, is a field that encompasses a wide range of disciplines, and an online IT degree will ensure that you are ready to revolutionize how your next employer or organization currently approaches networks, programming, databases, and more. The further we move into our fast-paced information age and with the exponential growth of technology, the more important it is for corporations to invest in people with the most current, cutting-edge, IT knowledge and expertise. Your online IT degree prepares you to stay on top of the technology curve and as technology continues to evolve, IT professionals will continue to be in demand.

Earn your IT degree online and you can learn about the development, implementation, and maintenance of computer systems to help organizations transmit and store information electronically. Coursework for an online IT degree typically includes network design, network security, information technology management, programming, and database management.

Earning an IT degree online can open the doors to careers such as computer programming, network specialist, technical writer, and computer and information systems manager.

## **Network Management**

Organizations of every size need their employees to be connected to each other and to the outside world via the worldwide web. This is all done through a network. With a degree in network management, you will be relied upon to keep the network running smoothly with as minimal downtime as possible.

With a degree in network management, you'll learn how to implement, manage, and maintain a network. You will also be able to provide solutions to computer network problems. Coursework typically includes database systems, network security, operating systems, software, and computer networking.

With a network management degree, you have the knowledge and skills necessary to enter a wide array of professions such as Network Systems Analyst, Network Administrator, or even succeed on your own as a Network Consultant, designing networks for start-up companies.

## **Software Engineering**

With the heavy reliance on technology today, organizations want software specific to their needs. With a degree in software engineering, you will learn to develop software products that meet customer specifications.

Earning your degree in software engineering will enable you to develop software, flowing seamlessly through the software development stages: design, analyze, verify, validate, implement, deploy, and maintain. You will also learn about project planning, quality assurance, testing, metrics, and configuration management.

With a degree in software engineering, you may work for any major organization, developing customized software, or you will have the skills and technical expertise you need to succeed with your own software development firm.

## ***CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LEGAL DEGREE ONLINE***

The criminal justice and legal field is growing! Become a part of this exciting, fast-paced industry that not only solves crimes, but prevents them from occurring. Learn how laws are passed or become a part of a team that protects the country from outside attacks and other disasters. If any of these descriptions interest you, then a criminal justice and legal degree might be what you are looking for.

### **Criminal Justice**

Are you interested in law enforcement and bringing justice to society? Or is it investigating crime scenes that interest you? If so, then get your criminal justice degree online.

With a criminal justice degree you'll learn about the judicial system, law enforcement, corrections and public safety. You will also learn about criminal law and procedure, juvenile justice, drug enforcement and the like. Earning your criminal justice degree online will provide you with a solid foundation of keeping the streets free and clear of crime.

A criminal justice degree can get you through the doors of law enforcement as a police officer, detective, crime scene investigator or the CIA.

## **Homeland Security**

In response to the growing need of homeland security, homeland security degrees were established to help educate and train people for emergency situations. Not only does homeland security include fighting terrorism attacks but also includes recovery from natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and bombings. If you are interested in helping prevent and protect the U.S from national disasters, then get your degree in homeland security.

A degree in homeland security will teach you many aspects of homeland security including prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and strengthening the foundation for homeland security. A degree in homeland security is your opportunity to help protect the U.S. in air, on ground, or on seas.

With a degree in homeland security, you can join the ranks of law enforcement, become a special agent, join an emergency management company or even start your own.

## **Legal Studies**

Every year, new laws get passed to meet society's needs. Do you ever wonder how these laws make it to the ballot and get passed? Are you intrigued by law enforcement and the system? If so, then pursuing a degree in legal studies may be just for you.

Earning your degree in legal studies will allow you to explore the legal system in depth and the many aspects of the law as it applies to state and governments, trademarks, copyrights and patents. You will also explore lawmaking and the framework that surrounds the U.S. legal system. By earning your degree in legal studies, you get the foundation you need to apply law and ethics to the daily responsibilities of your career.

A degree in legal studies can open the door to careers such as paralegals and legal assistants or prepare you for entry into law school and becoming a legal expert.

## **Paralegal Degree**

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) defines a paralegal as one that is qualified through education and training to perform legal work that requires knowledge of legal concepts. Getting your paralegal degree will provide you with a solid foundation of these legal concepts.

By earning your online paralegal degree, you'll learn about legal ethics, legal research and writing, along with the legal concepts that will help you perform the role of a paralegal fluidly. You will also learn about the different subjects of law including trademarks, copyrights and patents, criminal law, business law, real property and much more.

From becoming a paralegal for a state or government agency or becoming a paralegal for a major law firm, getting your paralegal degree can provide you with the skills needed to succeed in this fast-paced career.

## ***CULINARY & HOSPITALITY DEGREE***

If you enjoy cooking, learning various culinary arts and/or methods, or working in and managing establishments in the travel and tourism industry, then a culinary arts and/or hospitality management degree might be right for you!

### **Culinary Arts**

Do you have a passion for cooking and creating your own recipes? Do you enjoy entertaining others with your cooking? If so, then how about entertaining a restaurant as the head chef? By earning a degree in culinary arts, you will have the skills and training necessary to do so.

A degree in culinary arts will teach you the art of cooking, classic and contemporary culinary techniques and the different methods used in cooking. You will also learn about international cuisine and how to develop menus while minding nutrition.

With a degree in culinary arts, you can be the head chef of a restaurant, creating your own menu and recipes, or you can open up your own restaurant or catering business.

### **Hospitality Management**

With the increase in travel and tourism, restaurateurs and hoteliers need to hire top-notch individuals to run their establishments in the most efficient manner while exceeding customers' expectations. Upper level positions in management are always available for those with the essential understanding of the skills necessary to run a seamless operation. A degree in hospitality management will provide you with these skills.

By earning your degree in hospitality management, you'll learn critical business functions, such as accounting, sales and management, and human resources, and acquire important travel & tourism industry knowledge to operate and manage establishments such as restaurants, bars or resorts successfully.

With a degree in hospitality management, you can manage and operate a restaurant or hotel or even run your own.

## ***TEACHING OR EDUCATION COURSE ONLINE***

Taking an education course online may be just the route you're looking for. Many reputable schools and universities are now offering online education degrees with specializations or concentrations in a wide variety of subjects.

## **Education/Teaching Degree**

As you made your way through the years of elementary, middle, and high school, there was one leader that you looked at to learn from: the teacher. If you've always wanted to be in the position of a role model by teaching children and you enjoy helping others, then get your education and/or teaching degree.

A degree in education and/or teaching will prepare you for the path of a teaching career. You will learn critical approaches to teaching literature, language and composition and may also learn how to develop curriculum and put together a class syllabus. After learning the fundamentals of teaching, you may choose to specialize in a certain subject such as Math, English, or Science.

A degree in education and/or teaching, along with the appropriate state license and/or certification, will allow you to teach in an elementary, middle or high school setting or even college should you pursue a master's in education.

***A HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DEGREE – ALWAYS IN DEMAND!***

Health and human services are part of the rapidly growing healthcare field. Employers in the healthcare industry are looking for qualified candidates who have completed their health and human services degrees. And best of all, a degree in any of the disciplines listed below are always in demand!

**Health Care Administration**

For ultimate job security, you can't go wrong with a degree in health care administration. The U.S. Department and Labor predict that there will be 3 million new jobs in healthcare by 2016. To step foot into this rapidly growing industry, get your degree in health care administration.

A health care administration degree will prepare you for many jobs in the health care industry. Not only will you study basic business courses such as accounting and marketing, but you will also study health care administration courses such as health care management, health care finance and health care planning.

With a degree in health care administration, you can join the health care workforce as a health care administrator, retirement home manager or any other health industry management job.

**Health Education**

By promoting health & well being, health educators help students, patients and their community live a healthy lifestyle. If you understand the necessity of living a healthy and active lifestyle and want to be able to teach others about it, then get your degree in health education. Whether you choose to take your knowledge and skills to a private organization, hospital-setting, or a community service agency, you can help impact the lives of others.

A degree in health education will provide you with the knowledge necessary to be able to teach and promote health and fitness. Coursework for a health education degree typically includes courses such as health management, health psychology, community health, health and wellness, and the like.

With a degree in health education, you may pursue a career as a physical education teacher or coach, teach high school students about health and fitness, or work as a health educator in a hospital setting.

## **Health Science Degree**

For sheer flexibility in the health care field, it's difficult to conceive of a degree as valuable as a degree in health science. If you have a desire to join the health care industry but are not sure to what capacity, then get your degree in health science.

With a health science degree, you'll gain an introduction to the health care industry and learn the theories and practices required to be in a health profession. Earning a health science degree online is your ticket to a wide variety of specialties, from health care administration, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, and the like. While obtaining a degree in health science, you'll take courses such as biological and behavioral sciences, providing you with a solid foundation of the health and medical field.

A degree in health science will introduce you to careers such as nursing, health care administration and respiratory therapists or you may wish to further your education and attend graduate school.

## **Human Services**

If you enjoy providing advice and helping others and want to take it to a professional level, then a degree in human services would be just for you. A human services degree will provide you with a solid foundation and the skills necessary to help people of all ages solve personal and social problems.

A degree in human services will teach core human services curriculum from psychology and sociology to human development, while providing you with a background on social and behavioral sciences. You will also gain an in-depth understanding of human services.

A degree in human services will open the door to careers such as case management, human services, and counseling for profit or non-profit entities, or you can bring your talents to the community as an outreach worker.

## **Medical Assisting**

Medical assistants have one of the most diverse jobs in the health care industry. While medical assistants may draw blood, prepare exam rooms, and take vital signs, medical assistants also schedule appointments, phone in prescriptions, and prepare medical records. If you like multi-tasking and being in a fast-paced environment, all the while helping others, then get your degree in medical assisting.

A medical assisting degree will provide you with the knowledge necessary to support patient care, perform medical & lab procedures, and manage records. With a degree in medical assisting, you'll also acquire office administration skills allowing you to work in one of several areas of medical assisting.

With a medical assisting degree, you have the administrative and clinical skills necessary to establish a medical assisting career in a hospital or in a private or community clinic.



## **Online Nursing Degree (RN to BSN)**

Do you already have your active registered nursing license? Do you want to move into a nursing management position? If so, then consider getting your Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing.

While obtaining your BSN degree, you will round out your clinical skills with executive skills such as leadership, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. You will also learn the best practices to apply whether you are working with patients or with a nursing staff.

With a BSN degree, you will obtain the skills necessary to oversee a unit in a hospital, move into a nursing management position, become a nurse executive, or even start your own health care related business such as a home health agency.

## **Sports Management**

Do you enjoy health & fitness and keeping active? If so, then consider a degree in sports management. With a degree in sports management, you will learn all of the fundamentals required in sports management to pursue a career in sports and fitness.

By earning a degree in sports management, you'll learn about human anatomy, physiology, nutrition, and health and how to apply this knowledge to sports and fitness. Sports management programs also typically include sports management courses such as sports business management, sports leadership, and sports ethics.

With a sports management degree, you have the knowledge necessary to be a sports manager, health and fitness manager, sport coach, or even work for a major league sports team.

## ***EARN YOUR SOCIAL SCIENCE & PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE***

The social science and psychology field includes many disciplines that are in demand. Economists, historians, and political scientists are often called on to provide insight on current events.

Psychology and sociology, of course, play huge roles in the study of these disciplines because they attempt to explain people's behavior. If you enjoy learning about how and why people react to certain things or wish to learn more about your government, economy, or history, then a degree in social science and psychology may be the right career path for you!

## **Economics**

As defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, economics is “the social science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services and with the theory and management of economies or economic systems.”

Essentially, economics is the study of how people and society operate.

A degree in economics will provide you with the skills necessary to be able to fully analyze the current state of the economy on both a micro level as well as a macro level and predict how the current state will affect a particular business or industry.

Coursework for an economics degree typically includes economics principles, microeconomics, and macroeconomics, along with some math and statistics coursework.

A degree in economics will open the door to careers such as an economics consultant for a private company or a macroeconomics consultant for the government. Whatever your goals, Education Advancement Online puts you in touch with accredited schools to help you earn your economics degree to reach the next level of your career and provide you with what you need to succeed

## **Fire Science**

If you are currently a public safety professional and want to advance in your career or are planning to join the profession of public safety, then a degree in fire science would be just for you. A fire science degree will lay down the groundwork and give you a solid foundation of fire safety and prevention.

Coursework for a fire science degree typically includes an introduction to fire science, fire safety, fire inspection practices, disaster planning and administration of fire protection services. By earning your degree in fire science, you will also learn leadership and management skills, enabling you to move up to chief positions.

A fire science degree will prepare you for many careers as a public safety professional. Not limited to just firefighting, you may choose a career path in emergency management, disaster prevention, or help to fight terrorism.

## **History**

Do you enjoy history but think you are limited in your career choices? If so, think again. With the knowledge of history and the writing skills you obtain while earning your history degree, your career options are abundant. From government work and museum work to tourism work, the issue will be deciding which career path to take. With a degree in history, you will learn not only about U.S. history but also world history. You will increase your knowledge of the past and study the different historical periods, all the while developing strong research, writing, and communication skills. With a history degree, you can choose one of many career paths such as teaching, historic researching, historic writing/editing, becoming a history expert for a museum or proceeding to graduate or law school.

## **Political Science**

If you have an interest in the processes, principles, and structure of government and of political institutions, then get your degree in political science. While obtaining your political science degree, you will gain a thorough understanding of politics and the political process, the development of government, constitutional law and the like. While earning your degree in political science, you will also develop strong critical analysis and communication skills.

With a political science degree, your career options include teaching, working for a public service or the community, working for a political campaign, or proceeding to law school.

## **Psychology Degree**

If you enjoy listening to others and providing advice, then consider a degree in psychology. With an online psychology degree, you will develop an understanding of why people act and feel the way they do and be able to provide guidance based on psychological theories. There are many specializations in psychology including Clinical Psychology, Child Psychology, Marriage & Family Counseling, and Mental Health Psychology.

An online psychology degree will provide you with a solid foundation of current psychological theories enabling you to apply psychological principles as you help others. Coursework for a psychology degree typically include Theories of Psychology, Behavioral Psychology, Social Psychology and Child Psychology, combined with Chemistry and Biology courses.

With a degree in psychology, you may pursue one of many career options such as marriage counseling, child counseling, or drug abuse counseling and you can apply your skills within diverse settings such as health care, education, or business.

## **Sociology**

Ever wonder why one person acts one way when in front of groups of people yet is the complete opposite when alone? Or do you often think about how society influences your decision-making process? With a sociology degree, you'll gain an understanding of human behavior as a group and be able to apply sociological theories to solve social issues.

A sociology degree will provide you with a foundation of sociological theory and will enable you to analyze social behaviors among different groups of people. While obtaining a degree in sociology, you'll take courses such as Sociological Theory and Research, Social Change, Death & Dying, Race & Ethnicity, and Social Movements, providing you with a solid understanding of sociological behaviors.

With a degree in sociology, you may work as a Sociologist for public administration, work for a government agency in the research and planning department, or you may wish to further your education and attend graduate school.

## ***CHOOSING AN ONLINE COLLEGE***

When looking for the right online college or university to attend, here are a few pointers to make sure the degree you get is a quality degree that will be valued and respected among your peers and employers.

### **Accredited Online Colleges**

First and foremost, it cannot be stressed enough that you must check the accreditation of the online college or university. To receive accreditation, an online college or university must undergo a thorough evaluation process to ensure that the online college or university offers a quality education that is equivalent to that of a traditional college. An outside accrediting body performs the evaluation, which is not an easy process. Some schools don't qualify for accreditation and some have even lost accreditation for various reasons. Accreditation also ensures that the online college or university adheres to academic standards. Some of the major accrediting agencies include Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges. A great way to check accreditation is to visit the U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs.

### **No Such Thing as a Quick College Degree**

In your search for an online college or university, you may come across sites that offer quick degrees or claim that you can earn an associates or bachelors in no time. Be wary of these claims. The length of time to earn your associates degree or bachelors degree online should be very similar to that of earning your associates degree or bachelors degree through a traditional school such as a community college or state university. While some online colleges or universities can help you earn an associates degree or bachelors degree at an accelerated pace when compared to traditional programs, be cautious of those that can offer you an associates degree or bachelors degree in just a few short months.

### **Real People at Real Online Colleges**

Finally, make sure there is a counselor or professor you can actually speak to or even meet with if necessary. If you need help or guidance, you want to make sure that there is someone you can call or see rather than correspond back and forth with a computer. Established, accredited online colleges or universities will typically provide you with a list of numbers to call for specific situations such as help with enrollment, career guidance, and even a number to your class professor.

When you make the decision to get your online college degree, you have just taken a major step in life. Just make sure to keep these three crucial elements in mind to make sure the degree you get will be worth your while.

## ***FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION***

### **An Online College Degree in No Time: Fund Your Way through School with Student Financial Aid**

There are hundreds of resources available to students who want to continue their education and receive an online college degree but are unable to pay for it up front. Whatever route you're choosing for student financial aid – an unpaid monetary gift or re-paid financial assistance – funding your way through school is achievable. Money no longer needs to be a factor in your decision to return or even go to school the first time around!

To decide which type of student financial aid would suit your educational pursuits, the following information on loans and scholarships should come in handy. Before enrolling at any school to acquire your online college degree, however, you need to make sure that it's accredited, the degree program you're interested in is eligible for student financial aid, and you've discussed your situation with the college's representatives in the financial aid office.

#### **FAFSA: Student Financial Aid**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is an office of the U.S. Department of Education that provides student financial aid or monetary assistance to eligible individuals who wish to continue their education well beyond high school and receive a traditional or online college degree. FAFSA strives to encourage all Americans to achieve a higher education and realize the power that it has within our society.

By partnering with a large number of postsecondary schools in the U.S., FAFSA is able to play a vital role in ensuring that interested individuals have ample student financial aid to continue their schooling and receive an online college degree. The program, which processes 14 million applications each year, distributes more than \$80 billion per year in student financial aid to eligible applicants.<sup>1</sup> To apply online or learn more, please visit [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov).

## **Students Loans**

In essence, student loans are low-interest monetary assistance from the government to help cover the cost of education (tuition) as well as books, housing, and incidentals. However, upon graduation and receipt of your online college degree, the loan must be re-paid. There are three types of student loans: federal student loans doled out to the students themselves; federal student loans to parents, which are normally referred to as PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students); and private student loans, which are funded by banks and/or financial companies rather than the government.

Advocates for private student loans say that this type of student financial aid combines the best of the low-interest rates, but with a higher loan amount and a longer grace period. Private loans have two methods of disbursement of funds – school to channel (money is distributed to the school) and direct to consumer (money is given to the individual to use as he or she sees fit). Before deciding which type of loan is appropriate for your particular situation, do your homework! Federal student loans require that you are enrolled in college for a certain amount of hours each semester, while private student loans begin accruing interest rather quickly.<sup>2</sup>

## **Loan Forgiveness Programs**

While loan forgiveness is not necessarily a way to fund your way through school, it is an excellent way to eliminate your loan debt quickly once you've received your traditional or online college degree. The government has devised a way to purge most (and sometimes all) debt for students who involve themselves in community or military service or work for AmeriCorps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Teach for America, Peace Corps, National Health Service Corps, or by teaching students in a low-income area.<sup>3</sup>

Most of these programs, which serve underprivileged families and individuals, will forgive a large portion of your loan debt if you work full-time upon graduation. The National Health Service Corps, for instance, pays up to \$25,000 per year towards your debt. To learn more, visit the Sallie Mae website at [www.SallieMae.com](http://www.SallieMae.com).

## **Scholarships**

Attend the college of your choice and acquire your online college degree – for free! How is that possible? Student financial aid in the form of scholarships from organizations, clubs, and fund programs all over the United States offer billions of dollars to students around the nation to help them realize their dreams. Scholarships recognize scholastic achievements or merits, while some focus on personal interests, community involvement, and/or financial need. You may be required to write at length on a topic or simply submit some detailed information on your educational interests. Best of all, scholarships are free money in your pocket – you do not have to re-pay this gift! To learn more about scholarships or to find a few that may be of interest to you, please visit [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).

## **Realize Your Dreams with an Online College Degree**

If you receive a loan, the important thing to keep in mind is that you've been given more money than needed. Try not to spend it all; tuck some away and save it for when you must begin re-paying the loan. Otherwise, you may find yourself with a large loan bill each month (with all the interest to boot). If you've received a few scholarships or other type of student financial aid, congratulations! This money is yours and you can do what you wish with it. You are off the hook and are released from re-paying these generous contributions to your educational pursuits to receive an online college degree.

Regardless which student financial aid route you decide to take, enrolling in college, learning all you can, and acquiring your online college degree are things to be proud of!

<sup>1</sup> <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/about/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.finaid.org/loans/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying/content/pay\\_loan\\_forgive.jsp](http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying/content/pay_loan_forgive.jsp)

## ***NEXT STEPS***

We at Education Advancement Online hope that you have found this Online College Guide useful and that it has prepared you with the knowledge you need to pursue your education online. To sum up the steps, here is an ordered checklist for you to follow:

- Determine which online degree you want to pursue
- Log onto [www.EducationAdvancementOnline.com](http://www.EducationAdvancementOnline.com)
- Search by degree level and subject, by college, or by degree
- Browse the online colleges that offer your degree or interest
- Request information from the online colleges or universities that offer your targeted degree
  - Speak with a few online colleges to see which one offers a degree program that you are most comfortable with
- Check the accreditation of the school at the U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs, <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>
  - While we only advertise accredited online colleges and universities on [www.EducationAdvancementOnline.com](http://www.EducationAdvancementOnline.com), it is a good idea to make sure that the online college or university is up-to-date with their accreditation status.
- Sign up for the online college or university that fits your needs best
- Sign up for your online courses and be on your way to completing your online college degree!

*Best of luck!*

