

## DISTANCE LEARNING



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- Are taught by the same committed, world class faculty,
- Are held to the same rigorous academic requirements, and
- Give you the same academic credentials as UMass' on-campus programs.

*A degree that means something.  
All on your laptop!*

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### Q&A'S ABOUT DISTANCE LEARNING

*Does an online degree have the same weight as a traditional degree?*

Absolutely! Most online degree programs exceed traditional programs in meeting students' needs for exceptional classes, ease in learning, and access to faculty and other students. Academically, online degrees are equally rigorous, and in many cases more difficult than traditional programs. One area that distance learning students find most valuable is that online programs offer learners unparalleled flexibility through multiple class start dates, no set class schedule, no travel time, and a variety of online services. These capabilities cause distance learning students to be very satisfied with their online programs. Research conducted at Liberty University shows graduates of the distance counseling program performed as well, and at times better, than the residential students on licensing exams. At Liberty University, transcripts and grade reports are the exact same for students studying on-campus and through distance learning. In addition, the classes are taught by the same professors! Most importantly, a student's graduation certificate does not note a difference between a residential and distance learning student. Liberty considers the distance learning program to be on par with its residential program, and has no need to distinguish between the programs. The bottom line is regardless of how your classes are delivered, the benefit a student receives from his/her education is based on how much effort a student puts into his/her studies.

S Lee Beaumont,  
Director of Administrative Affairs  
Distance Learning & Graduate Studies  
Liberty University

*Will employers know I earned my degree online?*

Some institutions are virtual institutions and do not have a campus that offers traditional face to face courses. By virtue of being an online institution it would indicate the degree was earned completely online. Traditional institutions may or may not designate that the degree is an online degree. For example, at The University of Toledo there is no designation on the student's transcript that a degree was earned via distance learning.

Dr. Karen Rhoda, Director  
Distance and eLearning  
The University of Toledo

*Is tuition determined by semester or on a course-by-course basis?*

Usually distance students are part time students, not full time students, and therefore the tuition cost is charged on a per course basis.

Pamela Shelley, Asst. Director  
Advanced Distance Learning Network WPI  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

Questions and answers taken from  
[NewsweekDistanceLearning.com](http://NewsweekDistanceLearning.com).  
For additional Q & A's, please visit the site.