

Survey: Employers say online degrees compare favorably with traditional programs

A decade ago, employers weren't quite sure what to make of the concept of online education. Today, however, hiring managers are getting the message: Online learning works.

In a 2001 employer survey conducted by the Distance Education and Training Council, supervisors were asked to rate online degrees earned by employees with comparable “bricks and mortar” degrees. On that question, 69 percent of supervisors said online degrees were “just as valuable” or “more valuable” than those earned in traditional classroom settings. Even better, 84 percent of those managers reported they would hire staff that earned appropriate degrees via online programs.

With 40 percent of all college and university students now over the age of 25, online learning will become an even more important option to help students juggle work and family obligations. Recognizing this trend, 87 percent of employers surveyed last year by the National Center for Education Statistics said they paid for at least part of work-related education – either online or traditional – for employees ages 25 to 64.

- Capella Times, September 2004 edition