



The evolution of online learning at public universities

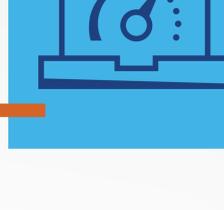
Online learning took center stage when the pandemic began — and the spotlight won't dim any time soon. As our survey with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) discovered, public higher ed institutions expect to offer more classes and services online. This will create a new normal for learners and faculty as the pandemic wanes.

Conducted Aug. 17 – Sept. 17, 2021

Population Provost-level administrators at AASCU member institutions

Survey respondents 104 (80 completed the questionnaire)

Online programs (and enrollment) are on the rise



94% of responding higher ed institutions offer fully online programs

Share of these higher ed institutions that offer 5+ fully online programs

48% 2013 → **76%** 2022

Forecasting online enrollment growth

↑ **64%** reported growth pre-pandemic

↑ **90%** expect additional growth in 3 to 5 years

Growth may boost investment in online learning



72% are more willing to invest in online learning infrastructure

Among these universities, 18% are willing to invest significantly more since the pandemic began

More AASCU member institutions have full-time faculty who only teach online

40% 2019 → **51%** 2022

Learners will have more paths to credentials

As learner needs shift, universities are seeking creative ways to expand access to online programs.

Many AASCU member institutions currently or plan to:

Offer online alternatives to degrees such as micro-credentials and stackable degrees

23% Current initiative

70% Adding in 3-5 years

Accept prior learning credit

49% Current initiative

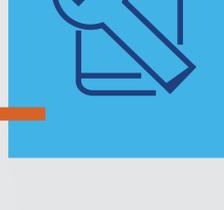
39% Adding in 3-5 years

Partner with employers

51% Current initiative

38% Adding in 3-5 years

Student support will move online



While many services were only available to students in-person prior to the pandemic, responding higher ed institutions plan to move toward offering student services both **in-person and online** over the next 3 to 5 years.

Mental health services

More institutions will offer these services **in-person and online**

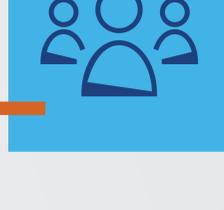
22% Pre-pandemic → **90%** In 3-5 years

Academic advising

More institutions will offer these services **in-person and online**

44% Pre-pandemic → **98%** In 3-5 years

Overcoming barriers can lead to benefits



AASCU member institutions experienced the following barriers, but many were able to make progress toward overcoming them:

49% overcame low faculty acceptance of online learning

38% overcame online course intellectual property concerns

Despite experiencing barriers, responding universities also saw the following benefits:

85% increased student access to programs

83% strengthened academic continuity during a disaster, such as the pandemic

Stay ahead of the online learning curve

Seeking data-driven guidance on how to thrive in online learning? We can help you find new program opportunities and kickstart enrollments. As a first step, download the *Online Learning at Public Universities 2022* report today.

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