

Chapter 1 : The Advantages of Distance Learning

Distance learning features a number of advantages, particularly for non-U.S. students seeking an accredited U.S. degree. Perhaps the most relevant benefit involves the luxury of remaining in your home country while studying -- and consequently avoiding the inconvenience of applying for a student visa to study in the United States.

Over the years, distance education in various forms - distance learning programs from open universities, online programs and so forth, have helped realised the educational aspirations of students who could not attend full-time and campus-based classes. Students often have apprehensions over opting for higher education via distance learning, as they lack clarity about the pros and cons of this mode of education. You must realise that distance education might not be the best choice for every student, but understanding its advantages and drawbacks can help you decide if distance learning is right for you. Application Forms Now Available

Advantages of distance learning

- 1. You can pursue a job along with studies:** Distance education comes as a blessing for such students. You get to learn while you earn! You can save money: For any given program, the fee of a distance education degree online or otherwise may be much more affordable than the fee of a regular on-campus degree. Students who are looking for economically viable options can go for a distance learning program. In a distance learning program, your classroom is right in your bedroom - the study material on your desk or the e-material on your computer. You can learn at your own pace: The prospect of going back to classroom education can be intimidating for many of us. Asking a question or revealing that you are unable to grasp a concept in class can be quite embarrassing for many students. Distance education comes to your rescue here! If you are self-disciplined and self-motivated, the best benefit of distance education is that you can learn at your own pace. In a classroom, when everyone is being taught together, it is often difficult to have every student on the same page. Some students are too shy to raise their doubts in class. This is where distance education has an advantage over a regular campus program. Since you are given all course work beforehand, you can study as much or as little as you want every day, as long as you complete your study material within the stipulated time. You can study whenever, wherever: Except in scenarios where you have to attend an online tutorial at a given time or a lecture through videoconferencing, you can pretty much study whenever you want to, wherever you choose to. You need not be stuck in a classroom, but can go study in your garden, on your living room couch or in the comfort of your own bed. Gaining recognition among employers: Distance education over the years has finally found some acceptance and recognition among employers, which is an encouraging sign. As long as the distance learning program is accredited, you need not be worried. In India, all distance education programmes that are approved by the Distance Education Council DEC stand automatically recognized for the purpose of employment to posts and services under the Central Government. Private sector employers also value a distance education degree now, and even encourage employees to pursue higher education along with their job so that employees can develop skills and expertise in their field of work.

Here are some situations that can turn out as disadvantages of distance learning.

- 1. Chances of distraction high:** With no faculty around for face-to-face interaction and no classmates who can help with constant reminders about pending assignments, the chances of getting distracted and losing track of deadlines are high. You need to keep yourself motivated and focused if you want to successfully complete your distance learning course. Although the cost of a distance education program is usually cheaper than a regular program, there can be hidden costs involved. For example, if your distance learning course is offered online, you might have to incur some initial expenses like installing a computer and getting a reliable Internet connection. You may need to buy additional resources such as a printer, a web camera and so forth. Some expenses might be recurring, like maintenance and electricity costs. Overdependence on technology can be a major drawback in distance learning mode of education, especially when the learning takes place in an online environment. Any malfunctioning software or hardware can bring an ongoing class to a standstill and interrupt the learning process. Similarly, if a student is not computer and tech savvy, his learning experience can be dissatisfactory. Quality of faculty compromised: Often considered to be the lesser cousin of regular education, distance education is often plagued by lack of enough good quality faculty members. In other cases,

even if the instructor is good, he or she may not be comfortable with teaching in an online environment. Sometimes the technology might not do full justice to the delivery and design of the course. A student loses out in all these scenarios. Distance education providers should realise that it is not the technology, but good and effective teachers that teach students. Questionable credibility of degrees: Even though distance and online education is starting to get recognition, there are still a lot of fraudulent and non-accredited degrees being offered. This affects the credibility of recognised distance learning degrees among prospective employers. Lose out on networking: The advantages of pursuing a regular programme go beyond just interaction with teachers and good course content. MBA graduates from premier business schools B-schools in India would vouch for the fact that the opportunities to network with established alumni, renowned faculty and industry heads go a long way in paving a secure career. A distance learning program loses out on this very important aspect. With further advances in technology and more training to adapt teachers to this new mode of learning, the disadvantages in distance learning can soon be sorted out.

Chapter 2 : Advantages/Disadvantages of Distance Learning

Home Distance Learning Advantages and Disadvantages - Why Choose Distance Learning? Advantages and Disadvantages - Why Choose Distance Learning? The main advantage of distance learning is that it allows you to fit your learning around your work and home life.

The student who chooses to pursue an online degree or correspondence course arranges a study routine that takes into account hours spent at work and time allotted for personal responsibilities and leisure. For busy people who commit to distance learning, convenience is a necessity rather than a luxury. Work, personal life, and education often overlap or intermingle as a result of financial pressures and changing social conditions. Distance learning makes far fewer demands on when and where education takes place. Tuition at conventional four-year colleges consistently spirals upward semester after semester, leaving students squeezed for funds to continue their education. Additional expenses, which are also on the increase, include parking fees, dorm fees, activity fees, and textbooks and supplies. While tuition goes up, colleges and universities have cut back on services, lab equipment, and salaries, and have even eliminated entire courses from the budget. The result is fewer learning resources for students and, consequently, less value for the money spent to attain a degree. Distance learning offers most of the same course credits as a campus-oriented university, yet at a substantially lower overall cost. Many of the expenses associated with maintaining facilities on a college campus do not apply to a distance learning program. Credible online universities offer an economical education to thousands of students through advanced technology rather than a vast complex of buildings and auditoriums. State-of-the-art computers and programs keep pace with progressive educational techniques that professors sometimes neglect or ignore. Disadvantages of distance learning occur at a basic human level. Responsibility and self-discipline are crucial factors in the success or failure of a distance learning program. Slack study habits go unchecked without the presence of an influential personality like a classroom instructor or professor. If a distance learning program provides individual assistance for students experiencing difficulties, a delayed response to questions or failure to connect may interrupt coursework for hours or days. Frustration caused by a failure to comprehend distance learning subject matter may lead to abandoning the course completely. Information technology has yet to produce an adequate substitute for cooperative, person-to-person problem solving between teacher and student. A college campus offers social activities that distance learning programs do not provide. College-bound young people fresh out of high school look forward to joining a fraternity or sorority, attending sporting events, meeting new people, and generally experiencing the excitement of campus life. Distance learning makes no provision for physical education, nor do distance learning programs sponsor team sports. Another advantage of attending a college is that after deciding on a major, students meet in person with a graduate advisor who recommends which courses to take and when. An advisor also tracks student progress towards a degree and counsels students who have trouble selecting the right combination of courses to complete a major. On campus, the relationship between student and advisor is a personal one. A diploma from a prestigious college or university, such as an Ivy League school, means belonging to an exclusive and privileged group that does not share the usual challenges confronting the average college graduate entering the job market. Keep in mind that as distance learning expands and improves, the disadvantages to the system will be compensated by new developments. Benefits of Distance Learning: Time Time spares no one, which means making each hour of the day count. Distance learning does away with unnecessary delays that slow down the educational process. Consider that classes at a conventional college campus require the student to be at a designated location, at a fixed time, on certain days of the week. Besides coordinating a weekly routine around a rigid time grid, add extra minutes of travel to campus, hunting for a parking space, and walking to class, and then figure in an equal number of minutes for the trip home. For someone who takes a course to build on an existing career or become certified in a specialized field, rearranging a daily work schedule to attend class may not be an option. Now that computers are in almost every household, business, library, and school, instant access to abundant sources of information is literally within reach for everyone. While a few people still feel overwhelmed by technology, computer software has

become easier to use as computer operation has become faster, more reliable, and more familiar to more people. Search engines sweep cyberspace quicker and with better results than ever before, spreading information at an astonishing rate. Keeping up with all the information available takes longer than finding it. Besides the Internet option, distance learning courses pass knowledge through other forms of communications technology, such as interactive video. Distance learning programs never close on weekends or for vacation, which means more freedom to handle coursework. A distance learning program features virtually unlimited access to knowledge, morning or night, seven days a week. Versatile time management also means deciding how long to study and how often. Study time divides into different portions rather than fixed hours or days. Be aware, however, that having flexible study periods does not mean a reduced workload or less time spent completing a subject. Earning credit hours still takes dedication to the tasks required to comprehend material and finish a course. Time is also an advantage in distance learning programs that are not geared to occupational goals and career purposes. For anyone who believes that education is a pursuit that spans a lifetime and contributes to the overall quality of life itself, knowledge means self- fulfillment. For those who value continuing education as a way of life, distance learning offers a multitude of courses designed to enhance the quality of life without the pressure of meeting deadlines. Distance learning saves time, allows time, and rewards time. Cost Tuition and other cost considerations for distance learning programs take into account several variables, but the collateral savings realized through home study compared to on-campus classes are obvious: Distance learning courses do not always cost less per hour than a regular college curriculum; indeed, some online degree programs are quite expensive. What counts most is value for the dollar when selecting a distance learning provider. An online academy should be accredited, or otherwise the course credits earned may be worthless or nontransferable to another degree program. Price does not always ensure quality, because some well-advertised distance learning institutes charge high tuition rates without delivering a worthwhile education. Money wasted on coursework that cannot be applied to a genuine degree results in double the effort and expense to retake a subject. Earning useful credits begins with buying into the right program. Taking a few hours to investigate the credentials of a distance learning operation, and to compare prices, saves time and money in the long run. Start out with a budget before deciding on a distance learning education, then search for discounts among the courses offered by several accredited institutions. After choosing the most cost-effective options, a customized, portable course package can be put together that meets the credit requirements for most degree programs. Remember to check registration fees and other charges before committing to several different programs at once. In the decades since distance learning first became available through the Internet, computer software, and other forms of information technology, most of the early problems with electronics or communications networks have gradually been solved. Consequently, on-site educational institutions began to show more interest and invest more resources in developing distance learning techniques. Now colleges and universities that once shunned distance learning, or offered only a few non-degree courses, have introduced comprehensive programs to award degrees at every level. As more colleges go online, competition for students forces all distance learning providers to keep prices and costs under control. In comparing distance learning and campus-based education, intangible costs and benefits should be considered in addition to financial calculations. Certainly, the financial cost of an education is significant, but intangibles matter, too. Greater freedom might be considered an intangible benefit derived from fewer delays, less anxiety, increased mobility, and more choices. Distance learning programs may well provide such benefits by allowing for more profitable use of time and energy. Convenience The world revolves 24 hours a day, and everywhere somebody is trying get something done while there is opportunity to do it. People in remote areas have few chances to attend college locally, much less to travel to another country to earn a degree. If a college or university happens to be close by, attendance still demands relocation from one place to another several times a week at a preset hour of the day. Then, too, there are people who are physically challenged and struggle to travel even short distances. For anybody, anywhere, convenience is opportunity. And for some people, convenience is a necessity. Convenience matters only if abundant resources are readily available to someone interested in distance learning. Availability and access are key words for judging the convenience of a distance learning system. In addition, the step-by-step process for managing

distance learning materials and methods must be comprehensible and simple to follow. A program should be compatible with the lifestyle and priorities of the user. Think about convenience as a priority instead of an option. Convenience, in pure form, is the power to make choices and decisions on demand. Classes conducted on location at any structural facility are more labor-intensive and therefore less convenient than a learning program delivered any place, any time, and in person. Because mobility is an essential component for a distance learning program, knowledge can be delivered anywhere in a compact and convenient package instead of by sitting through a classroom lecture set to a rigid schedule. People who need to take a course for certification or special job training may not be able to take classes during working hours. If evening classes are open, rushing to a campus location after work does not promote ideal conditions for education. Stress and fatigue can have a negative impact on the ability to study, on grades, and on job performance. The distance learning alternative fits in a pocket between work and rest without cramping either one. Distance learning is the convenient way to balance job responsibilities with work-related education. The different methods used to deliver a distance learning curriculum offer convenience through a variety of information technologies. This approach may not appear as convenient as home study, but convenience is a matter of making choices. A feeling of satisfaction that follows completion of a distance learning course indicates the right choice was made. Tailored Education For an education to be useful, knowledge must be applicable to rapidly changing circumstances. The communications technology boom has led to a higher volume of information exchange, which makes knowledge go out of date sooner. Education needs frequent upgrades and updates to stay current with changing trends and innovations. Keeping up with progress means knowing when to seek instruction and how much to learn. Course study for a college major generally provides the core understanding of a subject. As most graduates discover upon entering the job market, new employees often find themselves sitting through training sessions to learn special skills or functions not taught in college. Companies that keep pace with new developments have gradually moved away from in-house instruction to a distance learning system. Some businesses contract distance learning providers to set up corporate academies to teach and test procedures exclusive to that one company. For the most part, responsibility for receiving specialized training or certification falls on the individual rather than the employer. Individuals who need a special course to upgrade their existing skill levels do not need to review what they already know. Nor do they need to be in the same classroom with people who have different skill levels than themselves.

Chapter 3 : Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning | ezTalks

Distance learning, also known as online education, is a viable option for many individuals of all ages who desire to get an education. It holds a number of pros and advantages over a traditional learning environment.

A person sitting in one corner of the world can talk to a person sitting on the other side of the world. Technology has really shrunk the world. Technology has affected every aspect of our daily life. No one has remained untouched with this revolution. However, in this article we shall discuss an aspect where technology has really made a big change and that is distance education. Now you can sit in a remote area of a country and learn everything as if you are sitting in a college classroom. Distance education has really changed the way we see higher education. It is a growing phenomenon around the world and people are interested to know more about it. Before you make a decision to join distance education you should know what are advantages and disadvantages of distance learning.

Advantages of Distance Education

Study from Anywhere, Anytime The best thing about the distance education is you could learn it from anywhere and at anytime. It does not matter in part of the country you are living you can join the course and start learning. Even if your course is offered by an international school you could easily get access to course material if you are a citizen of a different country. Get all the knowledge and training anywhere you reside on the planet.

Flexibility of Time Normally, distance education offers flexibility of time. It gives complete freedom to choose your own time for taking up the course. If you do not have time in day then you can learn at night or some other time because only thing that you need is a computer with an internet connection. You do not need to go in person and submit anything. Time is the most important thing and you could save it through joining distance learning.

No Commuting I hate commuting. If you are opting for a distance education then you do not have to commute in crowded buses or local trains. As I said earlier, you need a computer with an internet connection in your home. Entire college would be in your bedroom and you do not have to go out. Commuting is the most difficult part because you waste a lot of time, money and more importantly the energy. No one likes commuting for long hours.

Plethora of Schools and Colleges to Choose There are many schools and colleges now that offer distance education. Hence you will not find any problem in finding a college. You could choose a college which is best for you. Although you do have to attend few classes in a week but it gives you real flexibility.

Lower Costs This is another great advantage of distance education. The total cost that you incur for joining Distance College is very less compared to joining a regular college. If you are from a poor background then you could easily afford the distance college. Moreover, the fees for certain courses in distance learning are very less compared to learning in a full time normal college. Hence, if you feel you have shortage of money then you could get quality education at low price.

Learn While Working You can learn or pursue your college while you are working. As I said earlier distance education offers complete flexibility of choosing time. The distance learning is not going to conflict with timings of your day job. You could work all day and study at night or vice-versa. Therefore if you are a working professional then you could choose distance education without affecting your 9 to 5 job. Moreover, it is really good for the housewives who can learn sitting in their home.

So these were advantages of distance education.

Disadvantages of Distance Education

However, with advantages there are some serious shortcomings of distance education.

No Interaction with Teachers and Professors The worst thing about distance education is you cannot interact with your college professor or teachers. In fact, you cannot even talk to friends and other colleagues that you do in a normal college course. You seriously miss the human aspect because you are only engaging with the technology and machines. You will not be able to socially mingle with your friends and enjoy a normal college life. Moreover, if you have any doubt then you have to clear yourself without taking help from your teacher or friends.

Lack of Seriousness, Competition and Learning Environment Sometimes you cannot replace a real college environment with a virtual college environment on your computer. In distance education you lack a seriousness that is present in a classroom when lecture is given by the professor. Moreover, here you are alone and you do not have anybody to compete because you are alone. Without any competition you tend to learn less. Therefore the overall learning environment in a distance education is lot different than a regular college.

Job Markets Do Not Accept Online Degrees This is could be quite dangerous if you are totally relying on distance education for a degree. You might get a degree but that is not going to be recognized by private companies in the job market and the same problem in government jobs. Still employers prefer a degree from a regular college over online or distance education. They think that distance education is still not a serious form of education. Therefore, if you think you will get a job with an online degree then you might be wrong.

Not All Courses Are Available and Can be Learned through Distance Education Moreover, online courses or distance education has some serious limitations when it comes to offering courses. You want to do specialization or major in a particular subject then it might not be available for you. Moreover, there are certain courses in which practical demonstration is more important than lectures on videos. So you cannot learn such courses. Sometimes you will not understand anything what is taught through an online video. Certain students could never understand what they are trying to teach you. So this is another limitation of distance education.

Internet Availability and Affordability Finally, this is sad reality that everyone cannot afford a computer and an Internet connection because you need these things for distant learning. All the lectures and conferences that would be given would through a webinar and you need a high speed internet connection. Many people cannot afford it. So they cannot join a distance education college because of their financial condition. So there were advantages and disadvantages of distance education. There are advantages and some disadvantages but the bottom line is if you want to learn something new then you could take up a distance learning course. However, you cannot rely on it imagining that it is going to give you a job one day because employers still do not prefer distance education.

Chapter 4 : Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning

While thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning, pros and cons, one may wonder if there are any distance learning disadvantages. Yes there are several among them: Costly and complex technology. Despite the many opportunities of distance education, there are inevitable accompanying costs.

Distance Education has both its advantages and disadvantages. It allows for individualized instruction. It permits instruction to take place anywhere, anytime. This is convenient for students and teachers. It allows further exploration of individual interests. Teachers can develop hyperlinks for students to pursue personal interest in depth. It provides availability of information. Information for distance learning is typically more up to date and screened by the teacher. It allows for interactive simulation. Due to the absence of personal instruction, the activity for the content being studied is highly interactive and may involve simulations. It allows for appropriate feedback for all actions. All students will have equal participation time. Learning is student-driven rather than teacher-driven. It makes all students apparent in the classroom. Quiet students cannot hide from participation. It creates a focused environment. Less discipline problems means less time spent off the topic. It provides efficient use of time. Students and parents do not waste time commuting. Also students do not have recess time to socialize and play. No face-to-face meeting for interactions among peers and with teacher in different settings. It means not getting up to do scaffolding activities or activities that are geared for the kinesthetic learners. Students may not have the necessary resources and skills typing, equipment, software, etc. No labels Casper, Erin J Good job on this page. I think this information of advantages and disadvantages of distance learning is one of the most important. I think many people are still skeptical about distance learning so they need to weigh-out the adv. Good job on this page.

Chapter 5 : Advantages and Disadvantages – Why Choose Distance Learning? - Complete University G

Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning: Advantages: 1. Provides for an increase in Access to education for those who otherwise have no other opportunities due to work, family or physical limitations. 2. Provides for a modality of instruction better suited for certain learners. 3.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning Advantages 1. Provides for an increase in Access to education for those who otherwise have no other opportunities due to work, family or physical limitations. Provides for a modality of instruction better suited for certain learners. Greater flexibility for scheduling learning-Students can determine time and place of "classtime". Greater flexibility in location for study-Students can engage course at home or work or on campus or at a library. Distance Education is Learner Centered -DE places responsibility for learning with the learner who must be more active and self directed. Facilitates greater learner-instructor interaction. Increased interaction with classmates. Produces a carry over effect into the regular classroom of improved pedagogic techniques. Opportunity to develop technology competencies for instructors and learners. Access to global resources and experts via internet communication and Internet resources. Allows for the internationalization of learning opportunities. Centralized resources can produce higher quality materials for distribution. Has the potential to equalize access to education. Most studies indicate that those taking asynchronous or the fully online classes are within 30 minutes of the campus offering the class online. The reason for their choice of this mode of instruction has more to do with the inability to make a commitment to a fixed time and place. These classes are accessible from anywhere and at anytime, but, for most enrolled, it is the convenience of the temporal availability that has them select the fully online classes. These students are older over 26 years and most will work during traditional classroom hours. They require flexible learning schedules. Students come to college for various reasons. They could be interested in changing careers, or they might simply want to expand their knowledge base for work or personal reasons. They might want to expand their cultural background, learn a new language, or start a degree program that was postponed due to family or career needs. Their main reason for choosing distance education as a delivery method is that they want to learn at their own pace or at a time and location that is convenient to them. A majority of distance learning students are female and many are single parents who want to stay close to home for various reasons. They might not be able to afford child care or must care for a confined relative at home. Other students are physically disabled and cannot easily travel to campus. Some do not have the time, money, or educational background to come to campus. Distance education can capture an audience that has been uninvolved with formal higher education. In many ways Distance Education makes education accessible and available for many people. In this manner it is particularly well suited to the mission of community colleges. Disadvantages Time and frustration involved learning how to get on-line for novices. Lag time between student input and feedback -Time lapse between need for learner support and resolution. Occasional internet provider downtime. Student must be more active and self-directed in learning environment -Depends on individual motivation and initiative. Occasional feelings of isolation- Potentially less group support for learners leading to isolation and possible non-completion of program. Instructional design for group activities and group interaction more demanding on the instructor. Demands large effort and cost to develop appropriate materials. Demands large effort to create and maintain the technological infrastructure. Distance Education is not for everyone. Advantages of Distance Education New York to China For the Chinese learner taking classes in English from instructors in the United States there are particular advantages and some disadvantages. Saves money for the learners that would be spent on travel and lodging. Overcomes difficulties in obtaining visa for educational travel. Overcomes the sense of disorientation for the Chinese learner living in the United States or Europe. Allows the native Chinese speaker to participate in a class conducted in the English language without fear of not being understood due to accent or poor spoken English as often occurs in the traditional. Allows Chinese learners to progress through academic programs at their own pace and not under the pressure of time constraints imposed by visa limitations or the expenses of living abroad. Allows Chinese learners to progress through academic programs at their own pace and not under the pressure of time

constraints imposed by the expenses of living abroad. There are many technical and legal issues to be resolved but there are no particular pedagogic problems specific to a New York to China distance education program delivered by means of the internet.

Chapter 6 : Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning!

Benefits of Distance Education. According to a report from the Babson Survey Research Group, more than 86% of U.S. colleges and universities had some online offerings as of , and more than 62% offered full certificate and degree programs.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning Like any kind of educational program, distance learning comes with a host of pros and cons. This allows students to work when and where it is more convenient for them without having to squeeze in scheduled classes to an already busy life. Taking a course online can be one way to cut down on costly gas or public transportation. Since students can often work from home to complete their class assignments, both time and money are saved in cutting out the trips to and from class. Numerous choices for schools. Even if you live in a community with few or no colleges distance learning allows you to choose from a wide variety of schools to complete your education. You may find online schools that specialize in your particular field or one that can provide a great general education. Either way, your options for education will be greatly expanded. As distance learning can usually be completed on your own schedule, it is much easier to complete distance learning courses while working than more traditional educational programs. Keeping your job gives you more income, experience and stability while completing your degree giving you less to worry about and more time to focus on your studies. Lack of social interaction. If the classroom environment is what you love most about learning you may want to take a step back and reconsider distance learning. Not everyone is an ideal candidate for online learning. If you know you have problems with motivation, procrastination and needs lots of individual attention from an instructor you may want to think long and hard before enrolling in an online learning program. While a majority of employers will, there are some who still see a stigma attached to distance learning. Realize that your online degree may not be the ideal tool for some job fields or for future learning. Requires adaptability to new technologies. Make sure you feel comfortable working with computers and with online programs before you sign up for a class. Not all courses required to complete the degree may be offered online. Find out all the requirements of your degree to see what may need to be completed offline.

Chapter 7 : Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Education - SureJob

Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning. Like any kind of educational program, distance learning comes with a host of pros and cons. Before you enroll in any kind of distance learning program, make sure to carefully consider these in order to be sure you'll be getting an education that meets your personal needs, strengths and career goals.

Distance learning programs have helped many students who are unable to attend campus-based or full-time courses to realize their educational aspirations. With distance education, learning instruction is disseminated over the internet through an online learning portal or video conference software. Such video conference software as ezTalks Cloud Meeting offer robust tools that can help instructors deliver full lessons to students from all over the world. But just like any other education program, distance learning comes with a set of pros and cons. Distance learning might not be the best choice for every student seeking to pursue a college degree or university program. Thus understanding its advantages and drawbacks can help one decide on whether or not it is the right program to pursue.

Advantages of Distance Learning

- 1. Greater Flexibility** With distance learning programs, students can pursue and complete their desired courses from anywhere with the use of computer and internet connection. A larger percentage of those that enroll for distance education are actually persons who are working. Distance education allows such students to find convenient time to study without interfering with their already busy schedule. One can study after work, in the middle of the night or during weekends. Learning materials and instruction can actually be obtained online at any time. So working students can learn as they earn. Students can take lessons and complete assignments from the comfort of their home. Most institutions that offer distance learning programs deliver lectures and tutorials through online video conferencing. One can actually enjoy class sessions from the comfort of their living room couch, bedroom or garden. Its full HD video and audio experience duplicates the real-life class scenario that makes online lectures more meaningful.
- Significant Cost Savings** The cost of online-based education programs is generally lower compared to those offered in brick-and-mortar institutions. That means distance learning an economically viable option for both students and parents. Apart from the convenience of pursuing a course from home, students will have a perfect opportunity to save more on their studies.
- Convenient Learning** For most of the working class students, going back to the classroom is rather intimidating. Asking questions about a hard concept about a given topic can also be embarrassing for shy students. A disciplined and self-motivated student can learn at his or her own pace. Online education combines the use of tutorials, eLearning materials and video conference class sessions to deliver knowledge to students. That means learners with different abilities can have the opportunity to understand the course in much detail.

Disadvantages of Distance Learning

- 1. Lack of Social Interaction** Learning in a brick-and-mortar institution presents students with the opportunity to meet and interact with people from different locations on a personal level. Distance learning only limits students to classes and learning materials that are based online.
- High Chances of Distraction** With no face-to-face interaction with instructors and other students, those who are enrolled on an online program might find it hard to keep track of their course work and assignments. It only requires one to be self-motivated and focused to be able to complete a course successfully.
- Complicated Technology** Any student seeking to enroll for a distance learning program needs to invest in a range of equipment including computer, webcam and stable internet connection. There is absolutely no physical contact between students and instructors as instruction is delivered over the internet. This overdependence on technology is a major drawback to distance learning. In case of any software or hardware malfunction, the class session will come to a standstill, something that can interrupt the learning process. Moreover, the complicated nature of the technology used in distance learning only limits online education to students who are computer and tech savvy.
- Questionable Credibility of Online Degrees** Despite its convenience and affordability, distance learning is still not the best option for many due to lack of quality faculty members. Even when the instructors are fully qualified and experienced, they might not find it comfortable to teach in an online environment. The design and delivery of every course differs greatly. Sometimes the instructor might find little time to talk about trivial details of a given topic, which are otherwise important to helping students understand better a given concept.

That, plus a host of other challenges like lack of proper assessment make credibility of distance learning degrees questionable. As a matter of fact, there many employers out there who do not accept online degrees as they still find stigma attached to distance education. That means students have to evaluate whether or not their online degrees can be ideal for the target job or future learning. This discourages many students from undertaking a distance learning program even when the degree being offered is genuine and competitive in the market. Conclusion Despite its numerous drawbacks, distance learning still provides better learning options for students wishing to enjoy greater convenience and flexibility in pursuing a course. The greatest benefits of distance education is that it allows students to access numerous learning tools using minimum financial resources. Studying online is even made more interactive with the use of video conferencing software. That improves the ability to acquire and retain knowledge on a given subject. However, distance education limits social interaction, involves useof complex technology and has a negative perception among some employers. Generally, distance education can be the perfect option for working students.

Chapter 8 : Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning - Education Technology Center - Ulowa V

Distance learning is a way of continuing your education online, and more people are signing up for courses every day. There are many advantages of distance learning and also benefits of distance learning when compared to the traditional continued education options.

But contrary to what many people believe, the value gained from the advantages far more outweigh the disadvantages. What are the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning? Advantages of distance learning to the learner: Distance learning does not require commuting. This saves you money and time that you would otherwise spend on travel back and forth to school. You can schedule learning around other aspects of your personal and professional life. You can complete most of the classes at your convenience. You can review the assignments and do your homework during off-hours or from home. Live anywhere, study from anywhere while pursuing the education of your choice. You can study wherever you have access to a computer and Internet connection. For slow and quick learners. This reduces stress and increases satisfaction. Online classes address physical accessibility issues that some people with limited mobility encounter when taking traditional classes. Instead, you can use your comfortable furniture in your home while enjoying free movement and a chance to further your education. Disadvantages of distance learning to the learner: While thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning, pros and cons, one may wonder if there are any distance learning disadvantages. Yes there are several among them: Costly and complex technology. Despite the many opportunities of distance education, there are inevitable accompanying costs. Live video communication for example, requires careful planning of the equipment and facilities. For online learning, you must own a computer with access to the Internet. This required technology is not always available. Some learners may also be afraid technophobic of technology. Both the instructors and students involved in distance learning may need to make sacrifices at times to get things done in time. If you work for the military for example, and you are on the ship, how do you get your materials? They may need to be mailed in advance incurring extra shipping and handling costs. Distance learning does not offer immediate feedback. With distance learning, a student has to wait for feedback until the instructor has reviewed their work and responded to it. Distance learning does not always offer all the necessary courses online. Students pursuing a specific certificate or degree program may not have all the necessary courses available through distance learning so it is not suited for all subjects. While you can study a history lesson completely online, you cannot perform nursing clinicals online. Thus physical classroom attendance will be necessary to complete the course. Distance learning degrees may not be acknowledged by all employers. Although most employers do acknowledge distance learning, certain employers do not. Distance learning does not give students the opportunity to work on oral communication skills. Students in distance learning courses do not get the practice of verbal interaction with professors and other students. Distance learners may feel isolated or miss that social physical interaction that comes with attending a traditional classroom. However this impersonality has been lessening with advances and use of communication technologies such as bulletin boards, threaded discussions, social networking, chats, email and video conferencing. Based on your unique circumstances, you can compare the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning over traditional learning, while also taking into consideration your learning style , and decide which type of education is right for you.

Chapter 9 : Benefits, Distance Learning and Learning - eLearning Learning

Top 5 Advantages of Online Education Continue your search A few years ago, online education was the latest trend, people discovering that you can enjoy a great education from the comfort of your own home, drastically cheaper and one thousand times more convenient.