

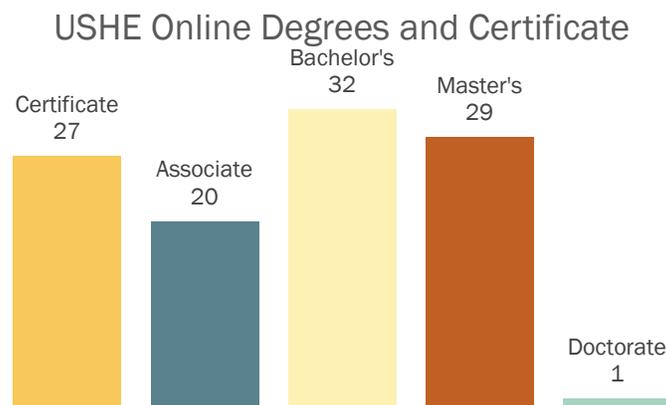
USHE Online Education Overview

A Summary comparison of online courses, degrees and tuition rates

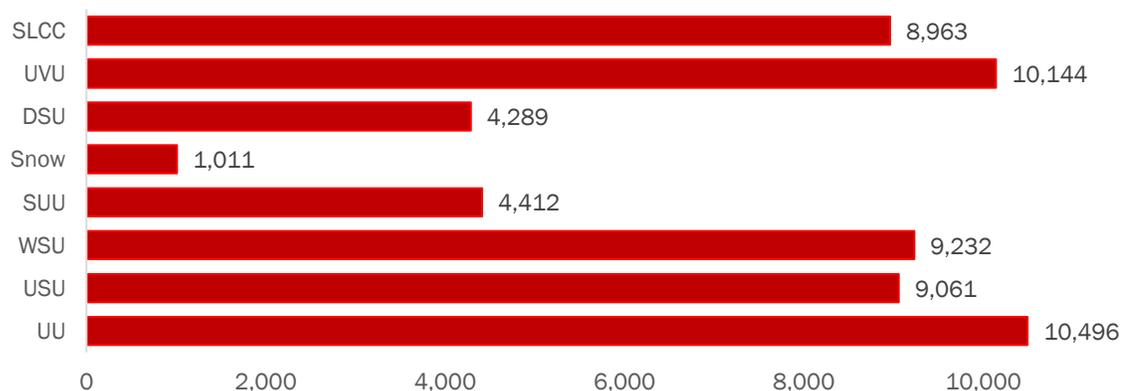
Online course and degrees have rapidly become a common part of a student's college options. Forty percent of all USHE students are enrolled in at least one online course. Despite availability of online courses and degrees, students prefer using online courses to augment a traditional campus schedule:

- 83% of all students who enrolled Fall 2017 took the majority of their courses on campus;
- 3% of full-time students are enrolled solely in online courses; and
- More than 75% of students who enrolled solely in online classes are part-time and 59% of those students are over 25 years old.

USHE institutions offer over 2,000 courses online, with 112 degree and certificate programs available entirely online. Utah State University, with its statewide mission and regional campuses, is among the most prominent institutions with its online presence. USU, alone, offers 30 certificates and degrees entirely online:



Enrollments by Institutions (Fall 2017, Headcount)



How do USHE institutions compare with other institutions?

| | Arizona State University | Southern New Hampshire University* | Purdue University | Utah System of Higher Education |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Online Tuition** (per credit) | \$520-728 | \$320 | \$451-751 | \$225-533 |
| Traditional Tuition** (per credit) | \$702-842 | \$1,025 | \$329.05 | \$225-533 |
| Online Degrees** | 80 | 39 | 36 | 112 |
| Do credits earned online automatically transfer "offline"? | no | no | yes | yes |

*Southern New Hampshire University is a private institution

**Undergraduate

Online and traditional general education courses, including concurrent enrollment, at USHE institutions automatically transfer and are applied among all institutions. Additionally, majors curriculum is shared among faculty at USHE institutions in an attempt to ensure as seamless a transfer opportunity as possible.

Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs)

A Massive open online course is aimed at high volume participation and open access via the web. MOOCs emerged from the focus on open education resources in the mid-2000s. In 2012 the New York Times dubbed 2012 the *Year of the MOOC*, based on the emergence of MOOC providers, most notable of which are Udacity, Coursera and edX. As this delivery has matured, the most common model for deployment is via partnerships with traditional higher education institutions, primarily for noncredit instruction. All of the USHE institutions have or have had a partnership with a MOOC provider in the past several years.

Some institutions have enhanced partnerships that allow students to pay a per credit fee upon completion of an approved course. For example, Arizona State University launched the *Global Freshman Academy* in 2015 in partnership with edX. Students who complete approved edX courses can pay \$200/credit (compared with \$141/credit at Salt Lake Community College). In its first cohort, less than 1% of the learners in the MOOC partnership were eligible to earn credit for their work.ⁱⁱ

PathwayConnect (BYU) and BYU-Idaho Online

PathwayConnect takes one year (three semesters) to complete. Students take one academic course and one religion course each semester. The courses are non-credit developmental courses in three primary subject areas: life skills, basic writing, intro to algebra and personal finance. Enrolled students are expected to commit 15-20 hours to studying online content weekly as well as to attend weekly support gatherings facilitated by church volunteers at a local LDS institute or meetinghouse.ⁱⁱⁱ

BYU-Idaho Online

To become eligible for a BYU-Idaho online certificate or degree, students must meet one of the following requirements from PathwayConnect:

- Successfully complete PathwayConnect with a 3.0 GPA or higher, or
- Earn a minimum of 15 on-campus credits at one of the colleges or universities operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (BYU, BYU-Idaho, BYU-Hawaii, or LDS Business College)^{iv}

Partnerships with PathwayConnect and BYU-I Online

Institutions like Utah State University and Arizona State University have partnerships with PathwayConnect that guarantee admission to students who earn a completion certificate. In addition, Arizona State University has several articulations in place for 20 degree programs for students who earn an Associate Degree via BYU-I Online. According to ASU,

“This program is designed for students who achieve at least 24 transferable lower-division credits and up to 60 transferable lower-division credits with a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average. Some majors will require a higher-grade point average or other special requirements. This program allows you to transfer 60 credit hours from your Associate of Applied Science degree toward a compatible Bachelor of Applied Science at ASU, with guaranteed admission if you have earned at least a 2.5 grade point average from BYU-Idaho.”^v

USHE offers similar articulations for dozens of degrees with dozens of institutions across the country, including the BYU institutions.

ⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/education/edlife/massive-open-online-courses-are-multiplying-at-a-rapid-pace.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/12/21/323-learners-eligible-credit-moocs-arizona-state-u>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://byupathway.lds.org/pathwayconnect/structure>

^{iv} <https://byupathway.lds.org/degrees>

^v <https://transfer.asu.edu/BYUIdaho>