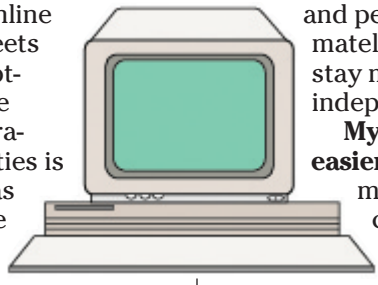
The truth about online education



There's more to online education than meets the eye. The acceptance level of online learning by corporations and universities is rising, but little was known what online students think about it.

A survey by *eLearners.com* asked online higher-education students what they thought was the biggest myth about online learning and what they liked about learning online. Here are the responses and findings.

TOP THREE MYTHS ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING:

Myth #1: It requires less time and effort. Online learning is largely student driven. While students do interact with faculty and peers, they are ultimately responsible to stay motivated and work independently.

Myth #2: The work is easier. Online learning may be a little more challenging than face-to-face learning. The primary mode of communication is written so students must write clearly and effectively.

Myth #3: It is a less-effective educational/learning format: Professors work hard to make sure online lectures are intensive, even considering in advance any potential confusion or helpful supplemental exercises. The online classroom format can be conducive to a wide range of learning activities not available in regular classrooms.

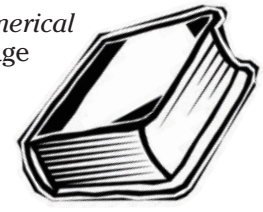
Best part of online educational experience

1. Time/location flexibility - 56%
2. Format/style of instruction - 20%

Other interesting findings:

1. 90% of online students indicated their experience was just as good, or better, than a regular classroom.
2. More than 83% said they would recommend online education to others. **MD**

History of numerical control



The History of Numerical Control is a 360-page book that covers the history of the automation of the machine-tool

industry and the part **General Electric** played. Readers will follow the progress of applying computerlike controls to metal-cutting machines from the early tracer controls of the '40s to direct computer-controlled machines of the '80s and beyond. Additional chapters cover the Numerical Control Society (the trade association of the era), the development of the APT (Automatically Programmed Tools) computer program, vignettes of early pioneers, and photos of early applications. The book finishes up with "Where are They Now?", a review of the machine-tool industry decline in the U.S.

For more information on the book or to order, e-mail Richard Thomas at richard.thomas@case.edu. **MD**

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