



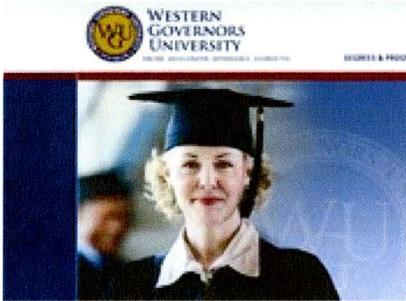
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# Beat The Recession By Taking Classes Online



Reporting

**Molly Hughes**  
DENVER (CBS4) —  
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Western Governors University was started in the late 1990s by the governors of 19 western states. The goal was to create a more educated and competitive work force in response to the tech boom.

CBS

When the economy tanks, many professionals look to further their education. It's a way to increase their earning potential and in this tough job market, a way to reinvent themselves for a career change.

But how do professionals with a mortgage, car payment and other grown-up responsibilities find the time to plunge back into college? They go to an online university where the classroom comes to you.

A growing number of people are doing it and the reputation of online education has grown too. Accreditation is the norm. In fact, online universities like Western Governors University are required to have more accreditations than a traditional university. Since people in every state can take online courses through WGU, the university has to be accredited in every state in the nation, and every regional accrediting agency.

Western Governors University was started in the late 1990s by the governors of 19 western states. The goal was to create a more educated and competitive work force in response to the tech boom. It costs about one-sixth the price of an average university. Students spend about \$3,000 per six-month semester.

Another important point is that WGU is competency-based.

Carmen Rubino, a teacher at Silvercreek High School in Longmont got her masters in Math Education at WGU. Because she had already taken a scattering of relevant courses over the years, she was able to apply those toward her masters. She took a test, proved she was competent in the subject matter, and moved on to the next level. Because of that, she finished a three-year masters program in two years and saved a lot of money in the process. Instead of paying \$18,000 for her three-year masters program she paid \$12,000 over two years.

WGU offers four fields of study: Education, Health Care, Information Technologies and Business. It's just one of many online universities out there. WGU is a non-profit with a stellar reputation. It's supported by AT&T, Hewlett Packard, Dell and Sun Microsystems, which regularly hire WGU graduates.

Those interested in learning more about online universities should be sure to investigate their accreditation. Make sure it's a respected institution and valued by the people who are in the position of hiring.

## Additional Resources

For more information, click the links below.

Education online. Founded by the governors of 19 western states, WGU offers accredited online bachelor's and master's degrees specifically designed for you. You'll discover WGU gives you an outstanding quality education under the sun.

**WGU Online Teachers College**

**Online Teacher Licensure Degree Programs**

- B.A. Interdisciplinary
- B.A. Mathematics
- B.A. Science (5-8)
- B.A. Science (9-12)
- B.A. Science (Physical Sciences) (5-12)
- B.A. Science (Biological Sciences) (5-12)
- B.A. Science (Innovations) (5-12)
- B.A. Social Science (5-12)
- B.A. Special Education (5-12)

**Online Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Programs**

**Online College Technology**

- B.S. Business Management
- B.S. Business Management
- B.S. Marketing
- B.S. Accounting
- B.S. Finance
- Master of Business Administration
- M.S. Health Management

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