



WGU TEXAS
TEXAS.WGU.EDU



Texas' Only Online, Competency-Based University



WGU Texas is a nonprofit, online university established by the State of Texas to provide Texas with flexible, affordable access to quality higher education.

The state's only fully online university, WGU Texas was created through a partnership between the State of Texas and nationally and regionally accredited Western Governors University. WGU Texas is ideal for busy adults who want to advance their careers by finishing a college degree or earning an advanced degree.

WGU Texas was established by Texas Governor Rick Perry with the support of Texas Higher Education Chairs Senator Judith Zaffirini and Representative Dan Branch. This new university was created through Executive Order RP 75, which calls on state agencies to enhance their participation with and support of WGU Texas.

WGU Texas offers more than 50 bachelor's and master's degree programs in high-demand career fields such as Business, Teacher Education, Information Technology, and Health Professions, including Nursing. Support for the establishment of WGU Texas was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

WGU Texas offers a new option for residents of the state who need to complete their undergraduate or graduate degrees, but may not be able to attend traditional colleges or universities. The university employs a unique competency-based learning model in which students earn their degrees by demonstrating competency—what they know and can do—rather than spending time in class to accumulate credit hours. Students can use their work, academic, and life experience (combined with learning new skills) to earn a college degree. This not only makes it possible to complete a degree more efficiently; it also guarantees employers that the graduates they hire are competent in all areas associated with the degree program.



WGU TEXAS

Mission Statement

The mission of WGU Texas is to expand access to affordable higher education for Texas residents through online, competency-based degree programs that address key workforce needs.

About WGU Texas

Approximately 33% of working-age Texans have completed a two- or four-year degree, yet it is estimated that by 2018, 56% of all jobs in the state will require a college degree. In addition, more than 3 million Texans have started, but not finished, a college degree. WGU Texas provides a new opportunity in higher education for Texans, particularly those with work and family responsibilities. As Texas state colleges and universities continue to face issues with capacity and funding, WGU Texas offers affordable, accredited bachelor's and master's degree programs with no ongoing state funding.

Designed to meet the needs of nontraditional students, particularly those with work and family obligations, WGU Texas' innovative learning model offers residents a new opportunity in higher education. Key benefits to students include:

- **Accessible.** Online degree programs and learning resources are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Accredited and Credible.** Degrees will be granted under the current accreditation of Western Governors University, which is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and the Distance Education and Training Commission (DETC). Teacher College programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- **Affordable.** Tuition at nonprofit WGU Texas is lower than many Texas public colleges and universities, and roughly half the cost of most for-profit online universities. The university is self-sustaining on its low tuition, requiring ongoing state subsidy. Tuition is charged for six-month terms, and students may complete as many courses in a term as they are able—the only limit is the individual's time and ability to commit to the rigorous courses of study.
- **Competency-based.** Students advance by demonstrating what they already know, focusing on what they still need to learn, on a schedule that fits into their busy lives. Because students are often able to take advantage of prior learning and experience to complete their courses more quickly, the average time to complete a bachelor's degree is 2 ½ years.
- **Relevant.** Degree programs address workforce shortages and meet employers' needs.
- **Supported.** Individualized mentoring is provided to each student, from enrollment through graduation.

"WGU Texas will help address our state's key workforce needs while offering affordable career and continuing education opportunities to Texans."

—Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini



"WGU Texas provides another flexible, affordable way for Texans to fulfill their potential and contribute their talents for years and decades to come."

*—Governor Rick Perry,
State of Texas*



"It is so nice and helpful working with a mentor. The highs and the lows—whatever happened [my mentor] knew when to call."

—Geoff Garcia,
B.S. Marketing Management

Academics

Competency-Based Education

WGU Texas' unique approach to teaching and learning is specifically designed for adult learners. This approach, competency-based learning, is based on the understanding that each student comes to college knowing different things and with the ability to learn at different rates. WGU Texas' competency-based academic model measures learning rather than time spent in class. Students are awarded degrees based on demonstrating what they know and can do rather than accumulating credit hours. Competency-based education begins by defining what students in a particular degree program need to know and be able to do to graduate. Program Councils, which are composed of education and industry experts in the specific degree area, identify these competencies, and assessments are developed to measure these competencies.

Learning resources, which include the best distance-delivered content from across the nation, are mapped to the competencies of the degree programs. These resources are used by students to gain the competencies they have not already mastered.

Assessments include objective exams, portfolios, projects, and performance tasks. When students demonstrate that they have mastered all of the required competencies by passing all of the assessments in their degree programs (they must receive the equivalent of a "B" grade or better to pass), they are awarded a degree.

Faculty Mentors

Ensuring student success is the primary focus for WGU Texas. Rather than teaching classes, WGU Texas faculty members serve as mentors. Each student is assigned a mentor who provides one-on-one coaching, guidance, and support from enrollment through graduation. Mentors "meet" with students via telephone regularly to help students stay on track and meet their educational goals. In addition, subject matter experts offer guidance through every course. This distinctive element of the WGU Texas model is key—it provides the human touch and connection that is often lacking in distance education.

"WGU Texas can and will do much to advance our shared goals of increasing completion rates in Texas and reducing the costs of higher education for students and their families. We see WGU Texas as a chance to open the doors to a university education to more Texans, helping to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in our country's leading job creating state."

—Bill Hammond, President and CEO
Texas Association of Business

Academic Programs

WGU Texas offers bachelor's, post-baccalaureate, and master's degrees in high-demand career fields. The university is comprised of four colleges:

Teachers College

B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary, K-8)
B.A. Mathematics (5-9 or 5-12)
B.A. Science (Chemistry, 5-12)
B.A. Science (Physics, 5-12)
B.A. Science (Biological Science, 5-12)
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program (K-8)
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program, Mathematics (5-9 or 5-12)
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program, Science (5-9 or 5-12)
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program, Social Science (5-12)
M.A. in Teaching (K-8)
M.A. in Teaching, Mathematics (5-9 or 5-12)
M.A. in Teaching, Science (5-9 or 5-12)
M.A. in Teaching, Social Science (5-12)
M.S. Special Education (K-12)
M.S. Curriculum and Instruction
M.A. Mathematics Education (K-6, 5-9, or 5-12)
M.A. Science Education (5-9)
M.A. Science Education (Chemistry, 5-12)
M.A. Science Education (Physics, 5-12)
M.A. Science Education (Biological Science, 5-12)
M.A. Science Education (Geosciences, 5-12)
M.S. Educational Leadership
M.A. English Language Learning (English as a Second Language, PK-12)
M.Ed. Learning and Technology
M.Ed. Instructional Design
Endorsement Preparation Program in English Language Learning (English as a Second Language)

College of Business

B.S. Business Management
B.S. Business—Information Technology Management
B.S. Business—Human Resource Management
B.S. Accounting
B.S. Marketing Management
B.S. Sales and Sales Management
Master of Business Administration
MBA Information Technology Management
MBA Healthcare Management

College of Information Technology

B.S. Information Technology
B.S. Information Technology—
Networks Administration
B.S. Information Technology—
Networks Design and Management
B.S. Information Technology—Databases
B.S. Information Technology—Security
B.S. Information Technology—Software
B.S. Health Informatics
M.S. Information Security and Assurance
MBA Information Technology Management

College of Health Professions

B.S. Nursing (for RNs)
B.S. Health Informatics
M.S. Nursing—Education (for RNs holding BSNs)
M.S. Nursing—Education (RN to MSN Option)
M.S. Nursing—Leadership and Management (for RNs holding BSNs)
M.S. Nursing—Leadership and Management (RN to MSN Option)
MBA Healthcare Management



"I spent years trying to finish a degree, but WGU took away all the obstacles—I love the nonprofit status, tuition is reasonable, and competency-based meant I could use my experience without having anything to slow me down."

—Melissa Richards,
B.S. Business
Management

"The creation of WGU Texas will provide another low-cost, flexible, and tested option for Texans seeking to compete in a global marketplace."

—Texas State Representative Dan Branch



Focus on Student Success

WGU Texas measures its success through the success of its students. Enrolling students is not the goal—the goal is getting them to graduation. WGU Texas maintains its focus on the needs of students and their success by tracking retention, graduation, and student academic progress as well as student, graduate, and employer satisfaction.

Western Governors University participates in the National Study of Student Engagement (NSSE). This study, which is conducted annually, polls students and graduates at traditional and online universities nationwide to collect feedback regarding their satisfaction with their respective schools. In many key areas, WGU was rated higher than other universities.

“The foundation is pleased to support Western Governors University because they have a strong track record of providing a high-quality, affordable, and flexible college experience that meets the needs of today’s students. In these tough economic times, it is more important than ever to support students who are juggling jobs and families while trying to make a better life for themselves.”

—Hilary Pennington,
Director of Education,
Postsecondary Success,
and Special Initiatives,
U.S. Program,
Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation

Level of Academic Challenge (by percentile)

Component	WGU	Private Non-Profit Universities	All Institutions in the Study
First Year	53.0	53.9	54.5
Senior	59.7	57.9	58.0

Rating of Entire Educational Experience

[Excellent (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)]

Component	WGU	Private Non-Profit Universities	All Institutions in the Study
First Year	3.62	3.25	3.28
Senior	3.58	3.23	3.27

Satisfaction with Quality of Academic Advising

[Excellent (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)]

Component	WGU	Private Non-Profit Universities	All Institutions in the Study
First Year	3.64	3.11	3.13
Senior	3.64	2.96	2.98

Would You Attend the Same Institution Again?

[Excellent (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)]

Component	WGU	Private Non-Profit Universities	All Institutions in the Study
First Year	3.79	3.25	3.29
Senior	3.66	3.20	3.24

A New Option in Higher Education for Texas

As the State's newest university, WGU Texas is focused on the higher education needs of the state's working adults, offering degree programs designed to meet employers' needs. Employers of WGU graduates give them high marks for their preparation and work performance.

Employer Satisfaction (2010 Case Study of 120 employers)

Responses by Employers of WGU Graduates
95% agreed that WGU graduates meet or exceed their expectations; 56% say WGU graduates exceed their expectations.
94% were willing to hire another WGU graduate; 50% indicated that they were extremely likely to hire another WGU graduate.
93% rate the job performance of WGU graduates as good or excellent.
97% rate WGU graduates as equal to or better than graduates of other universities.

Community College Partnership

WGU Texas has partnered with Texas community colleges to offer graduates who have completed their associate's degree a generous transfer policy as well as application fee waivers and tuition discounts. In addition, a special scholarship program has been created for qualified Texas community college graduates.

Federal Financial Aid

Through its relationship with Western Governors University, WGU Texas is eligible to offer federal financial aid, including Pell Grants and Subsidized & Unsubsidized Federal Loans.

Benefits for Active Military and Veterans

WGU was honored as a "Top 20 Military Friendly School" for 2010 by Military Advanced Education magazine. Degree programs are approved for tuition assistance for active-duty, reserve, and National Guard personnel. In addition, veterans attending WGU Texas are eligible for education benefits through the GI Bill. Competitive scholarships are also available for active duty military, reservists, military spouses, and veterans.

Supported by Leading Educational Foundations

WGU has earned the support of more than 20 leading corporations and foundations. They include institutions such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, AT&T, Dell, HCA, Hewlett-Packard, the Lilly Endowment, Lumina Foundation, Microsoft, Oracle, Qwest, and SunGard Higher Education.



"I am the first and only one of my parents' children to graduate with a bachelor's degree. The dream I had carried with me for 25 years post-high school became a reality through WGU."

—Phyllis Boone,
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
(K-8)

WGU TEXAS PROMISE

*We help our students achieve their
dreams for a degree and career success
by providing a personal, flexible,
and affordable education based on
real-world competencies.*



WGU TEXAS

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texas.wgu.edu