Myths about Online Learning

When online classes were first offered around 20-25 years ago, many people thought the programs or courses were easy of that the degrees weren’t “real”.

Since then, the popularity of online college has skyrocketed. In the fall of 2017, the last year for which data is available), over 6.6 million students took at least one course online, and over half of those were exclusively online according to the [National Center for Education Statistics](https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=80).

Still, the misconceptions and myths persist. If you’re considering an online course or program, don’t fall prey to these common myths.

1. Online Courses are easier the Face-to-Face Courses  
     
   Online programs from reputable institutions must adhere to the same academic standards and accreditation requirements as their face-to-face counterparts. Online education requires excellent self-motivation and time-management skills, meaning a student must have discipline and a strong commitment, soft skills employers are looking for!
2. The Quality of Online Courses is Lower  
     
   Online courses must meet the same criteria, curriculum and standards as face-to-face or hybrid courses. In addition, [academic research](https://www.cpajournal.com/2017/10/09/online-learning-compares-traditional-classroom/) suggests that there is little difference in the lever of learning between the two types of education. Some believe online learning leads to deeper learning.
3. Schools Don’t Accept Transfer Credits for Online Courses  
     
   Whether or not to accept credits is an individual institution’s choice. However, most of the time the institution won’t know if you Carroll course(s) were offered online, hybrid, or face-to-face. The institution with which Carroll has established articulation agreements means they will accept Carroll credits as transfer credits.
4. Online Programs are not Accredited  
     
   All Carroll programs are accredited by [Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)](https://www.msche.org/), whether they are offered face-to-face or online.
5. You Don’t Interact with your Instructor or Other Students

Students in online courses do interact with their instructor via discussions, asynchronous lectures, office hours, and more. I fact, some instructors and students feel they get to know each other more deeply in an online course.

1. Cheating is more common in online courses  
     
   While cheating may occur in an online course, experts say it is no more likely than in a face-to-face course. Carroll instructors have the option to use Turnitin, an anti-plagiarism software, and some course require students to complete proctored exams. If you are concerned about potential cheating in an online curse, speak to the instructor about his/her strategies to combat it.
2. Employers don’t like online degrees  
     
   This may depend on the individual employer, but a diploma from Carroll Community College does not specify if a degree was completed fully or partially online. Many employers support employees who are enrolled in online programs, particularly at institution that have a strong reputation of quality.
3. Online course are self-paced.   
     
   This may be true for some online courses; however, most online courses at Carroll have specific due dates for assignments, just as in a face-to-face classroom.
4. You have to be tech-savvy to be successful in an online course.   
     
   You definitely need some technology skills such as how to connect to the internet or navigate in a web browser, but generally many of the tools and programs you’ll use will have some familiar aspects. Further, Carroll offers a vast array of tutorials for our Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas, including 24/7 support.