



Degree seekers head to the web



By: [Isabel Mascareñas](#)

Brandon, Florida - As Florida colleges plan to raise tuition and put caps on enrollment, getting a college degree becomes more challenging for high school seniors and working professionals trying to go back to school.

The web is making a college degree possible for many adult learners like 35-year-old Christian Haber. The software developer and father of two are getting his master's degree online from Florida Tech.

"Might be easier than you think, there's the flexibility standpoint, it's still work, still taking classes you can work it into your schedule easier," says Haber.

Classes are kept small, to about 30 students. Sure there's a textbook, but it's supplemented with a video lecture by the same professor that gives the class at the university.

Haber says, "There are lesson plans, a syllabus, and set lectures for each week and a message board for discussion topics."

The web based classes are developed in Tampa by Bisk Education, reportedly the nation's largest e-learning provider with 35,000 students currently enrolled.

Adrian Marrullier, the CMO for University Alliance says, "Online education has taken off in the past few years. Stats for the industry show online or distance education is growing 35 percent annually."

Under the name University Alliance Online, Bisk offers degrees and professional certification to 13 universities including USF, Notre Dame and Villanova. Professors tape lectures in the company's studio. Instructional designers format the classes for web use.

And students have enrollment advisers to help with financial aid and class schedules, plus guidance counselors at their school.

Students must be at least 22 years old with the exception of military personnel. Marrullier says that assures them the students are working adults who have the maturity to do online learning.

"What we find it's not so much going on line that scares them, it's the commitment of going back to school, of finishing their degree and changing their life," says Marrullier.

When looking for an online college program Marrullier suggests one look for a university that is regionally accredited and a school that's ground-base with an established history. Finally, make sure the university is ranked by US News & World Report and Newsweek.

For more information on University Alliance Online, [click here](#).

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