

What Makes a Successful Online Doctoral Program?

Abstract

Online education offers a wide range of programs using a variety of delivery methods, along with the integration of educational technology into the learning environment and as such, has created an attractive prospect for doctoral education when face-to-face options are not realistic for students. Online doctoral education appeals to the adult learner for the reason that it can be conveniently accessed from anywhere and anytime in an asynchronous milieu. Online education provides learners the opportunity to participate in advancing their education in an environment conducive to learning and lets students progress at their own pace. However, a perceived drawback of online learning is how the doctoral degree is inadequate preparation for academia. In this paper the authors review the literature on best practices for asynchronous online learning and provide an evaluation of the factors that contributed positively to their personal online doctoral education experience.

Key words: Best Practices, Online Education, Doctoral Education, Student Experience

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