



5 THINGS COLLEGE STUDENTS WISH THEY HAD KNOWN WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

JBUOnline



LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process colleges and universities go through to validate their academic quality.

Why does the level of accreditation matter?

A degree from a highly-accredited institution is more respected by employers, and other universities require certain levels of accreditation to transfer previously-earned credits.

What level of accreditation should you be looking for in a college?

Regionally-accredited institutions have a higher level of accreditation than nationally-accredited institutions. On the degree program level, you should also look for secondary accreditation, which distinguishes a specific degree program.

FACT: JBU's Online Undergraduate program is regionally-accredited and most of our majors also have secondary accreditation.



PRESENCE OF HIDDEN FEES

It's easy to compare the posted tuition prices from universities. However, many universities promise low tuition costs, then tack on enormous fees. Do your research and ask admissions so that you won't be surprised by your bill.

According to an article by The New York Times, the average fee at four-year public colleges was almost \$1,700 in 2015-16.

What are some examples of hidden fees?

Many universities charge course fees, technology fees, library fees, even athletic fees.

What if I don't use the service/facility?

Even if you don't use the service or facility, the fee is often still automatically added to your bill.

Fact: JBU's Online Undergraduate program has zero hidden fees. You can accurately estimate your cost of tuition per semester by visiting our tuition page.



VALUES ALIGNMENT

Whether private, public, faith-based, or non-religious, every university has a certain “DNA” that defines how they instruct and serve students. You can get a quality degree from any of these types of institutions, but you may find that the experience you get from a college that aligns with your values is more rewarding. Take some time to research the values of a university and how they’re practiced.

What are some questions to ask?

Where are their priorities?

How do students and faculty interact?

How do a school's values affect the way I will gain an education?

Fact: JBU is a non-profit, private Christian university whose mission is to provide a Christ-centered education that prepares people to honor God and serve others by developing their intellectual, spiritual and professional lives.

RESEARCH VS. LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY



Research University

Liberal Arts University

Academics

Provide several focused degree options and more opportunities to participate in research

Provides a broader, well-rounded education in a student's area of interest

Class Sizes

Classes tend to be larger, sometimes consisting of hundred of students

Class sizes are smaller

Faculty

Faculty's primary focus is research, which means they spend less time teaching (classes are often taught by graduate assistants)

Faculty devote most of their time to teaching.

There is no "right" choice. Just decide what is important to you.

Fact: John Brown University is a liberal arts college focused on teaching. There is approximately one faculty member for every 14 students in the online program.

NON-TRADITIONAL CREDIT OPTIONS



What is non-traditional credit?

Some universities offer credit for prior experiences, certifications, or trainings. This means you may be able to earn elective credit through things you've already done.

How can non-traditional credit help?

Earning elective credit this way can often reduce your overall tuition cost and shorten your time to graduation.

How can I earn non-traditional credit?

Usually, the registrar's office will make this decision. You will need to submit any transcripts, certifications, or other documents to show for the work/experience you have..

What are some examples of non-traditional credit?

Military training, course-specific exams, CPR certification, and even Scuba certifications are all examples of non-traditional credit.

Fact: JBU's Online Undergraduate program offers credit for non-traditional learning including CLEP Exams, DSST Exams, military and police training, first aid and CPR certifications, and more.