THE UTEP CONNECT
ONLINE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
UTEPE CONNECT
EXTENDED UNIVERSITY

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ARE YOU CONSIDERING EARNING A DEGREE ONLINE?

Thinking about enrolling in a program offered through UTEP Connect but wondering what it’s like to be an online student? This ebook will give you a glimpse of the student experience with UTEP Connect, the online education arm of The University of Texas at El Paso.

Even if you’re new to online learning or have been away from college for a long time, UTEP Connect’s online programs are exceptionally approachable.

One of UTEP’s core beliefs is that all online students should have access to the same services as our on-campus students. So, we provide personalized guidance to students during each stage of their interactions with us. An Enrollment Counselor helps students through the application process, at which point a Student Success Advisor guides them through their program until graduation.

All the usual processes at college—registering for classes, completing coursework, etc.—are easily accomplished online via UTEP’s user-friendly processes and technologies.

“I have found that returning to college later in life gave me a different focus than I had previously. I have experience and knowledge that I didn’t have in my twenties, so I feel like I had a richer learning experience than ever before. Also, having the ability to take all my classes online was a life saver.”

– Holly McDonald, Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies, Class of 2018

READ HOLLY’S STORY
YOUR CLASSES: RIGOROUS BUT FLEXIBLE

Don’t expect a lesser-quality or easier education just because it’s online. All UTEP Connect’s online programs are of the same high quality and academic rigor as face-to-face degree programs.

One of the advantages of being in an online class is the flexibility it affords. You’ll be able to complete your coursework and study when it is most convenient for you, giving you the opportunity to balance your education with career, family, and other obligations.

Flexibility, though, means you’ll need to be extra responsible and organized. Though you’re not required to be at class at a certain time, most classes will require that you check in several times throughout the week and submit your tests and projects on a deadline.

When it comes to the type of coursework you’ll be tasked with, many instructors include readings from a textbook or a variety of online sources, or both. Course assignments may include discussion-board postings, live chats, quizzes and tests, and projects.

Most students devote approximately 10 hours a week to each class. Some classes will demand more, others less. And, from week to week, time commitments might change. Weeks with tests or projects will require more dedication than others.

“While a lot of autonomy is given, the student has to create a disciplined study schedule to complete the coursework.”

– David Worley, Master of Science in Construction Management, Class of 2018

READ DAVID’S STORY
YOUR PROFESSORS: KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEDICATED TO YOUR SUCCESS

All the online programs offered through UTEP Connect are taught by the same expert and highly accomplished faculty who teach on-campus courses. Faculty members truly care about your success and go the extra mile in making themselves available to you, whether it's by phone, email, or other communication channels.

“My proudest accomplishment as an online instructor is the continuous feedback that I receive from many students...they know how much I care about their success. Some have said I inspired them.”

– Ljubinka Andonoska, Assistant Professor, Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning

INTERACT WITH YOUR PEERS WHEREVER THEY ARE

While you won't be in the same physical location as your peers, there are plenty of opportunities to interact and collaborate via discussion boards, emails, and other methods.

Some classes may ask you to work in small groups with your classmates to complete a project. Other professors encourage collaboration and engagement by creating virtual spaces in which students can interact and share their perspectives on course topics and how they apply to their professional paths.

Our diverse student body is another benefit of getting your online degree through UTEP Connect. UTEP Connect programs tend to draw a lot of nontraditional students—meaning classes are comprised of a wide range of ages, experiences, educational, and vocational backgrounds. That breadth of experience, which is often lacking in more traditional, on-campus programs, fosters rich discussions as your classmates bring their perspectives to the material. It also prepares you to work in the diverse and global teams that define today's organizations.

“I thought not being able to have classroom discourse with peers or professors would be an aspect missing in my learning. This wasn’t the case. I found the discussions boards were a good substitute for face-to-face peer interaction.”

– Jeannie L. Crowell, Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies, Class of 2019
EXPERT SUPPORT: 
ALWAYS JUST A CALL OR EMAIL AWAY

We understand how important it is for online students to know exactly how to get the help they need.

Any question related to course specifics (assignments, deadlines, etc.) can be answered by your instructor. Most anything else can be directed to your Student Success Advisor. If they don't know the answer, they will help you find someone who does. The important thing is to not be afraid to ask for help!

Many of UTEP’s on-campus services, including the Writing Center, the UTEP Library, Career Services, and Technology Support are fully available to online students.

UTEP Connect students consistently affirm that they have access to the necessary resources to succeed as online students.

“My academic advisor was always available and responded quickly to any questions I had. The process of registering was seamless, simple, and quick which was helpful. I appreciate that my advisor responded and worked quickly even though he did not see me in person.”

– Meagan Shank, Bachelor of Arts in Organizational and Corporate Communication, Class of 2018
DEDICATED TO YOUR SUCCESS

From the instructors we select to teach online courses, to our dedicated support model, to the technology we use to build our programs, every part of the student experience with UTEP Connect is centered around one thing: your success.

“[My program] was a rigorous, life-affirming experience, and I would recommend it to anyone willing to work hard to actualize their dreams.”

– Guadalupe Garcia McCall, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Class of 2017

READ GUADALUPE’S STORY

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Speak to an Enrollment Counselor

Call us at (844) 877-0379 with any questions you have about our 100% online programs.

Begin Your Application

Undergraduate Program Application
Graduate Program Application

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