# USN Education Editor – Editing and Writing Assessment

# Part 1: Editing Assessment

Instructions:

* Edit the below content for grammar, AP style, flow, readability and structure. Do your best to edit voice and tone so the content matches our consumer advice style and our audience.
* Complete your edits using “Suggesting” mode in Google docs or “Track Changes” in Microsoft Word.
* Use the “Comment” feature to add SEO recommendations, notes to the writer, or other suggestions to improve the page.
* If you are using Google Docs, change the permissions of your Google doc so anyone with the link can view it.

## Online Bachelor’s Programs

A bachelor’s degree — whether it’s earned in person or online, can open doors when it comes to employment opportunities. According to the National Centre for Education Statistics, U.S. bachelor’s degree holders aged 25 to 34 had an 86% employment rate in 2021, compared with 72% for those with just a high school degree. A bachelor’s degree can also lead to a higher salary. In 2021, bachelor’s degree holders earned a median of nearly $1,200 per week, compared with associate degree holder at about $860 weekly and $730 week for those with a high school diploma.

In 2022, about 5.5 million undergraduate students enrolled in at least one online course and two million enrolled exclusively in online classes, the National Center for Education Statistics reports. The curriculum for an online bachelor’s degree typically matched the on campus curriculum at the same school, and the degree itself typically won’t state the format in which it was earned. So you don’t need to work about how respected your online degree will be. Students in an online program usually earn the same degree as the on-campus students.

## Online Graduate Degrees

Graduate degrees are more specialized and a prospective master’s degree applicant generally needs to have completed an undergraduate degree first. While bachelor’s degrees often require students take general education classes in addition to coursework for their major, graduate level degrees typically focus on a particular area of study — such as engineering, business, health, public service, or education.

In fall 2021, more than 1.1 million students at the graduate level enrolled in an online course, with about 869,000 enrolling exclusively in distance courses. Partial and full online degrees exist at both the master’s and doctoral levels. In certain fields — such as nursing — a master’s degree is required for some jobs. In others, this credential isn’t necessarily required but can lead to management-level roles and higher salaries.

In 2021, master’s degree holders earned a median weekly income of $1,434, which is higher than the median of $1,198 among bachelor’s degree holders. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment in master’s level occupations is expected to increase by almost 17 percent between 2021 and 2016, which is faster than any other education level. Meanwhile, the BLS projects that employment in doctoral- and professional-level jobs will rise by about 13 percent.

Like an online bachelor’s degree, an online master’s degree can help students switch career fields or attain higher roles in their current industry. However, since some graduate programs require applicants to have an undergraduate degree in a specific discipline to enroll, a prospective student may need to earn a second bachelor’s degree as opposed to a master’s in order to enter a new field. This requirement varies by industry.

## Staying Local With Online Degrees

While online education offers students the opportunity to study from anywhere in the world, many still choose an online program with a campus located close to home. There are several reasons to say local.

Cost can be a big factor. Public colleges and universities will charge different rates for in-state and out-of-state tuition, even for online classes. For example, the University of Florida charges Florida residents $112 per credit hour in their online programs, while residents of other states pay $500 per credit hour. Likewise, a Florida resident would have to pay more to attend an online public school in another state. That means that sticking with a school in your state could save you tens of thousands of dollars as you earn your degree.

You might also choose a nearby online college because of the flexibility that online learning provides, especially if you are working. While studying online, you might still visit campus to meet with professors or advisers. Visiting the school can also help you feel like a true member of the school community.

Finally, some students enroll in a locally-based online degree program because they’re already familiar with its culture and traditions, or they have family or friends with ties to the institution. The school may also be more recognizable to local employers. Being able to network professionally in your area will help you out on our job search, especially if you’re changing careers.

# Part 2: Writing Assessment

Instructions:

* Write approximately 150 words of original content on **who should choose an online bachelor’s degree and why**. Structure your content so the lead paragraph, supporting content, style and voice matches our style of consumer advice.
* If you include any relevant sources, use the “Comment” feature to add any links to your sources for fact-checking.