Online Education Opportunities for the Safety and Security Professional

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Plan for the day…

- Discuss Online Education
- Types of Accreditation
- Typical Entrance Requirements & Transfer Credit
- Online Occupational Safety Programs
- Online Security Programs Overview
- Things to look for in a program
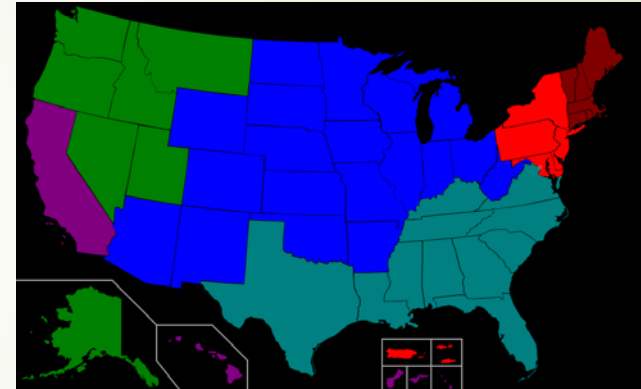- Briefly discuss alignment of programs with Certifications and Licenses

Online Education

- Growth since 1990s with a lot of colleges starting in late 90s
- Acceptance of online programs
  - Crazy, new fangled technology phase
  - The growth of an industry
  - Acceptance and adoption
- Advantages of online programs
  - Demographics
  - Mobile Workers
  - Military
  - Family and Career

Types of Accreditation

- Regional
  - Six Regional Accrediting Bodies
- National
  - General (DEAC)
  - Specialty Accrediting Bodies (Professional)

Image from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_accreditation

Evaluating Accreditations

- Accreditation accepted by the US Department of Education for the purposes of awarding financial aid?
  - Regional
  - DEAC and other national accreditors
- Accreditor membership with the Council on Higher Education Accreditors (CHEA)
- Are specialty accreditations in line with your goals? And are they the right specialty accreditation?
  - Example: AASCB, ABET, …others

Common Admissions Requirements

- Undergraduate
  - HS Diploma or equivalent (some have home schooling policies)
  - Highly competitive, academically rigorous university may require minimal SAT or similar testing scores
  - May require references, resume, letter
- Graduate
  - BS in field or related field
  - Minimum GPA
  - Entrance exam scores such as GRE sometimes required
  - May require references, resume, letter, portfolio …etc.

Common Transfer Credit Policies

- Universities may transfer in program and elective credits from courses taken at other universities

- Universities my evaluate professional development courses based on national standards for credit hours

- CLEP DANTES testing

- It's up to the university to decide what credit hours they are willing to transfer

- Transfer agreements between institutions

Safety Related Online Programs

- Conducted Google search of online programs in Safety
- Did not include programs with safety concentrations
- Did not include cognate programs such as Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics, Public Safety etc.

Online Safety / OSH Related Programs

- Eastern Kentucky University (B & M)   UG - $400   G - $600
- Columbia Southern University (B & M)   UG - $210   G - $275
- Waldorf University (B)   UG - $285   G - $360
- University of Oakland (B & M)   UG - $409/483   G - $681
- Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania (M & D)   UG - $ NA   G - $555 & fees
- University of Central Missouri (M)   UG - $ NA   G - $324
- University Wisconsin Whitewater (M)   UG - $ NA   G - $637
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical U. (B & M)   UG - $365   G - $620
- East Carolina University (M)   UG - $ NA   G - $877

Other Programs to Consider

- Industrial Hygiene
- Ergonomics / Human Factors
- Public Health
- Health Sciences
- Health Education
- Aviation Safety

Security Related Programs

- Conducted Google and Bing search of online programs in Security Management

- Other security related programs include Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, & Emergency Management

Online Security Admin. / Management

- American Military Univ. (B & M)   UG - $270   G - $350
- Bellevue University (B & M)   UG - $410   G - $545
- Univ. of Denver Univ. College(B)   UG - $NA   G - $628
- Southwestern College(B & M)   UG - $455   G - $570

Other Related Security Programs - Too Many Programs to List!!!

- Criminal Justice
- Homeland Security
- Emergency Management

Things to consider when searching

- Where are you in life?
- What are your goals?
- Accreditation
- Tuition and Fees
- Credit Transfer

Program Alignment with Certifications and Licensure

- Important to evaluate program alignment with other certifications and licenses
- Consider the Certified Safety Professional certification (CSP)
  - Can only sit for exams if you have an accredited degree
  - All Safety programs would allow one to sit for the CSP
- Other licenses and certifications have very specific educational criteria
- Bottom Line! Make sure you do your research!!

Looking back…

- Discussed online education history and trends
- Covered types of accreditation
- Discussed common entrance requirements
- Presented a number of online occupational safety programs
- Briefly discuss certification/licensure alignment concerns using CSP as an example
- Presented several security management programs
- Things to look for in a program

Questions

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