

# **Love the convenience, hate the pandemic: How to find a great online pathway to college**

April 6, 2021

# Welcome!



**Kathy McDonald, MBA**

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@kathy\_mcdonald

**Thank you to:**

**UF ONLINE**  
**UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA**

**For their generous support of this webinar.**



# Guest Presenter

## Joe Huston

Director of Academic Success  
Seminole State College of Florida



# Guest Presenter

**Dr. Brian Crose**

Director of E-Learning  
Seminole State College of Florida



# Guest Presenter

**Diana Marquez**

Instructional Coach and  
Distance Education Instructor  
Atlantic Technical College



# Guest Presenter

**Kim DiGeronimo**  
Student Ambassador  
UF Online



# Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media
  - Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  - #FCAN
  - #TalentStrongFL

*This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording*





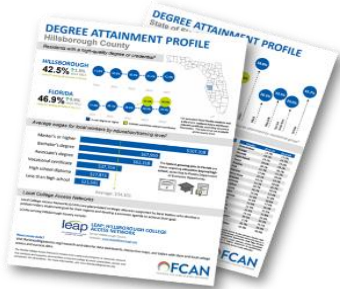
## **Our mission:**

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

## **Our vision:**

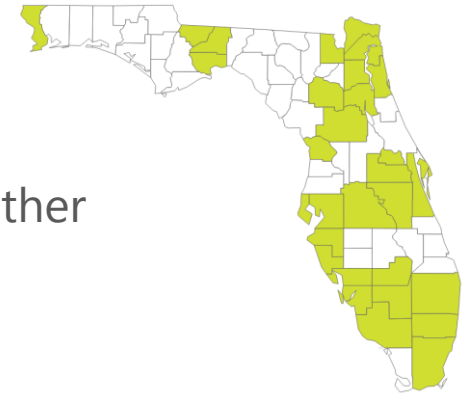
A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

# FCAN's Work



**Research and Data** FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

**Local college access networks (LCANs)** LCANs support 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE  
READY  
FLORIDA**

**Statewide Initiatives** FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.

## 7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

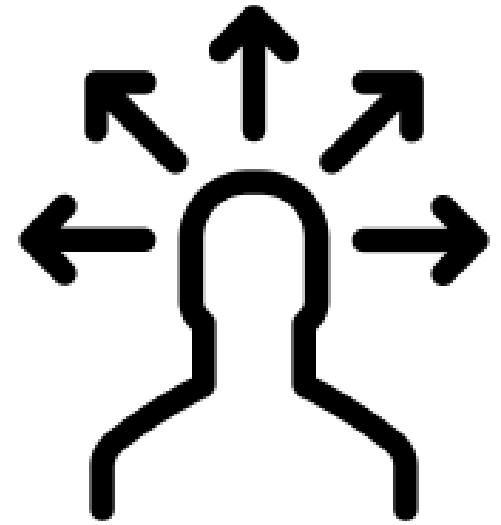
**Poll: What type of organization  
are you with?**

# Introduction

# Online College – pre-COVID-19

Key decision factors in selecting a college/university for an online program:

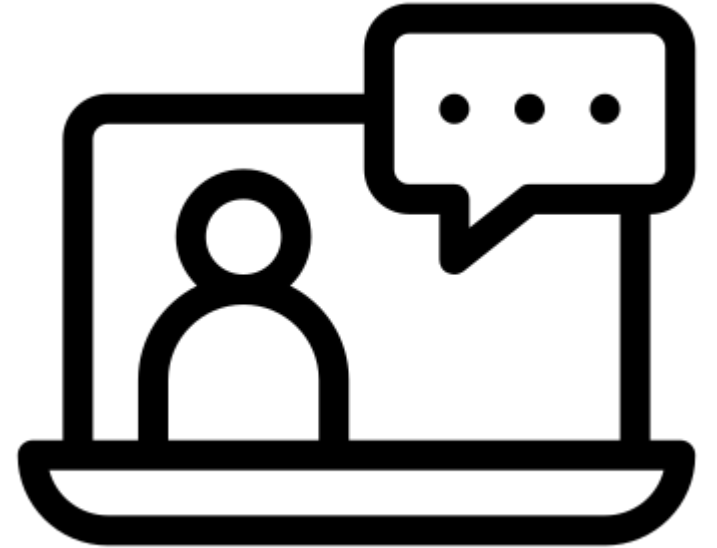
- Affordability (51%)
- Reputation (36%) and accessibility to campus
- Quickest path to completion (accepts transfer credit / work-based learning - 29%)



**Source:** Online College Students 2020: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences, Wiley Education Services & Aslanian Market Research

# Online College – pre-COVID-19

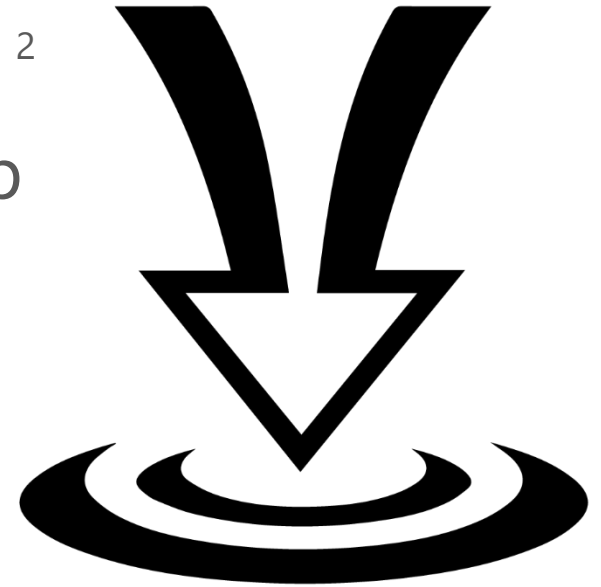
- 78% of online college students believe their program was worth the overall cost.
- 74% of online college students want to use their mobile devices to learn on-the-go.
- While online college students are career professionals up to ½ take advantage of career services.
- 58% used employer tuition reimbursement benefits



**Source:** Online College Students 2020: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences, Wiley Education Services & Aslanian Market Research

# Online College – COVID-19 impact

- Access to technology/internet impacted accessibility <sup>1</sup>
- 76% of undergraduates struggled with motivation <sup>2</sup>
- 60% of college instructors found it difficult to keep students engaged <sup>3</sup>



**Source:**

1. New America Higher Ed Survey, Global Strategy Group, August 2020
2. SERU COVID-19 Survey: The Obstacles to Remote Learning for Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Students, July 2020
3. Tyton Partners: Time for Class, July 2020



# Opening Remarks

**Evangeline Cummings**

Assistant Provost & Director  
UF Online





**UF** **ONLINE**  
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

# RETHINK WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR YOU AT TOP UNIVERSITIES

Pursuing Your Degree in 2021 and Beyond

Evangeline Tsibris Cummings,  
Assistant Provost and Director of UF Online



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2021 RANKINGS



## Modern Universities Embrace Online Learning, 2021 +

- You can enjoy all the benefits of a campus, a learning community, and a global alumni network by pursuing an online college pathway.
- Find an online learning program that's right for you.
- The best online learning programs are :
  - Engaging,
  - Flexible,
  - Content-rich, Taught by Experts,
  - Supportive,
  - Accredited, and
  - Always Evolving !







### Age Range of Students

17 - 77



Over **4,000**  
Students

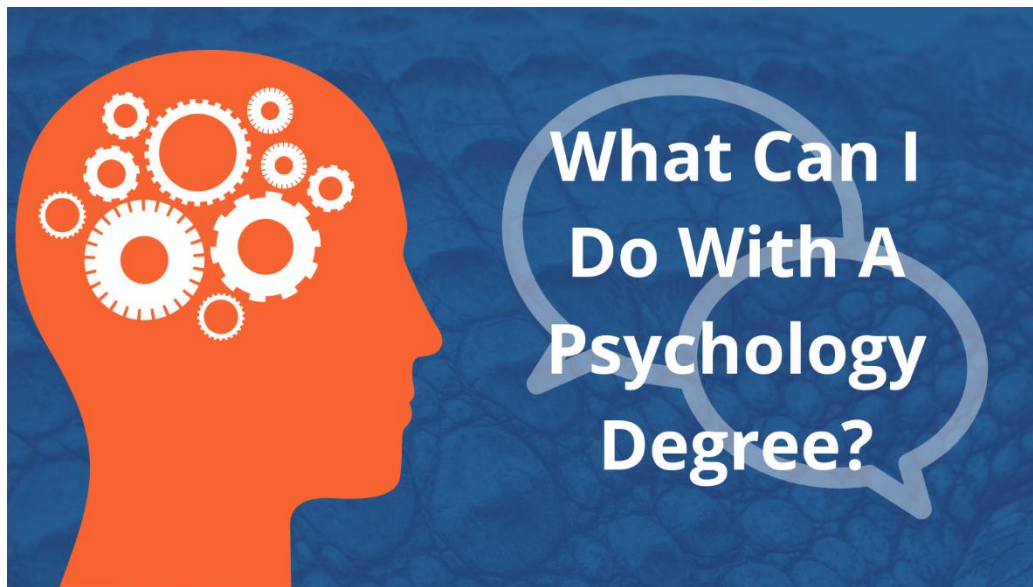
# Find the Online Learning Program and Community *That's Best for You:*

You're joining a learning community and automatic professional and educational network!

- How will you meet and interact with others?
- Does the University foster student engagement, networking outside the digital classroom?

Most of all, academic quality makes a difference:

- Invest your time in a program that will add value to your resume,
- Rankings aren't everything but employers eye them,
- Accreditation is going to be important
  - For Financial Aid,
  - When Transferring Credits and Pursuing Graduate Education, and
  - Career progression and Professional Licensures.
- Institutional Accreditation
  - The University of Florida is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral degrees.



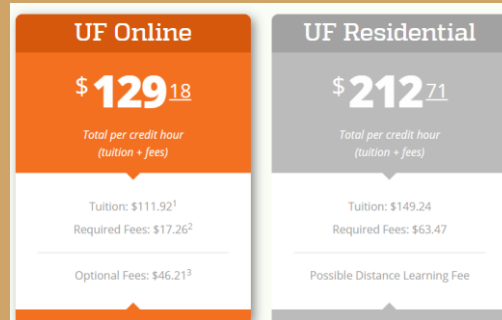
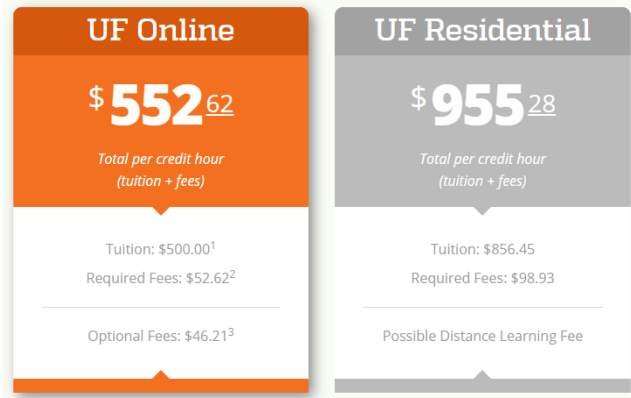
## Match your goals with your school and major

- Consider your academic goals right now and what degree will take you farther,
- See where your degree and field of study is offered, and in what format,
- Do your homework:
  - Who does the teaching?
  - What will my transcript say?
- Talk to schools and ask questions and get answers.

*You're in the driver's seat!*

# Affordability Matters

- Do your homework on the financial side too:
  - What's the estimated cost for a bachelor's degree?
  - Ask about: Tuition + Fees
- Explore scholarships and grants
- *Always complete the FAFSA!*







# Consider Transfer Pathways *and blended formats!*

- Save money, stay local, and even just get your feet wet in online learning formats by starting at your fantastic State College in Florida.
- Design a great transfer pathway to a 4-year University in the State University System (SUS) of Florida.
- Blend formats!
  - Fully online : an online AA + an online bachelor's program at a 4-year University!
  - Hybrid : Earn an AA on campus + transfer those credits to an online Bachelor's (and vice versa!)
  - Fully on-campus: a campus AA + a residential Bachelor's
- Plus UF now welcomes transfers at any level and students seeking a second bachelor's via UF Online!



We hope you enjoy today's FCAN webinar!

The University of Florida invites you to join our global learning community and Alumni network through UF Online.

Apply by May 3, 2021 to start in Fall 2021.

Get in touch!

Join an [information session](#)

Visit our web site [ufonline.ufl.edu](https://ufonline.ufl.edu)

**CONTACT US: 1-855-994-2867**



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**Poll: How online-learning savvy  
would you say you are?**

# Online Learning

The image shows two young women walking on a path outdoors, likely on a university campus. They are both smiling and looking towards each other. The woman on the left is wearing a dark, sleeveless dress and a necklace, and is holding a book. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored top, a denim jacket, and light-colored pants, and is also holding a book. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. The text 'Online Learning' is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# About Online Learning

- Pandemic has increased the number of enrollments in online-delivered courses
  - Overall higher ed enrollments down 4.5% for Spring 2021 (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)
  - Prior to pandemic, online enrollments grew by 5% 2018-2019 (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)
- Online learning has become more important in strategic plans
  - Chloe 3 Report – 94% of COO planned at least 1 new online program in 2019

# Embracing Online Learning

- Involves everyone
- Starts with Institution
  - Strategic Vision and Plan
  - Dedicated Resources
- Faculty
  - Training
  - Use of Data to inform teaching
- Students
  - Flexibility
  - Opens More Opportunities

# Digital Divide

- Just not access to technology
  - Quality and reliability of the technology
  - Knowing how to use the technology
  - Sharing of technology with family members
- Summer 2020 New America Higher Education Survey by Global Strategy Group
  - Having access to stable/high-speed internet – 57% challenged
  - Having high-quality camera and microphone – 50% challenged
  - Having access to food or shelter – 30% challenged
- 44% of American households with income under \$30,000 don't have access to reliable internet
- 46% do not have a traditional computer

# Engagement in Online Course

- There is a difference between remote learning and online learning
- More engaging course content
  - Synchronous components (Zoom, Webex, etc.)
    - Polls, screen sharing, whiteboard, breakout rooms, live Q&A
  - Virtual Reality
  - Augmented Reality
  - Adaptive Learning
  - Gamification





# Identifying a Good Fit

# Program and Course Design

- Understanding Modality
  - Fully Online, Synchronous, Hybrid, Remote
- Scheduling
  - Structured, Flexible, On your schedule
- Requirements
  - Assignments, Examinations, Proctoring
- Communication
  - LMS, email, 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools and platforms, phone, text



# Integrated Support

- Professor
  - Office hours, phone access, communication plan
- Advising/Financial Aid
  - Program Advisor, Academic Advisor, Orientation
- Course-integrated support
  - Teaching Assistants (TA's)
  - Embedded Tutors and Librarians
- Peer Collaboration
  - Group Chat, Peer Study Sessions, Collaborative Work
- Mentors and Coaches
  - Peer or Program mentors, Early Alert, Success Coaches

# Student Characteristics

- Self Starting and Working Independently
- Accountability and Motivation
- Time Management and Deadlines/Due Dates
- Effective Reading and Communication Skills
- Commitment and Willingness to Ask Questions
- Able to Ask for Help
- Self-Reflective and Able to Take Breaks

# Resources

- Tips for getting comfortable with an LMS:  
<https://www.usnews.com/higher-education/online-education/articles/2018-01-29/navigate-an-online-course-learning-management-system-as-a-student>
- College students podcast about successfully learning online: <https://www.baylor.edu/ssi/index.php?id=968884>
- Setting expectations for learning online: <https://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2009/11/e-learn>
- Seminole State College Information <https://www.seminolestate.edu/go>
- Seminole State College Brochure [https://issuu.com/seminolestate/docs/viewbook\\_2020\\_21](https://issuu.com/seminolestate/docs/viewbook_2020_21)

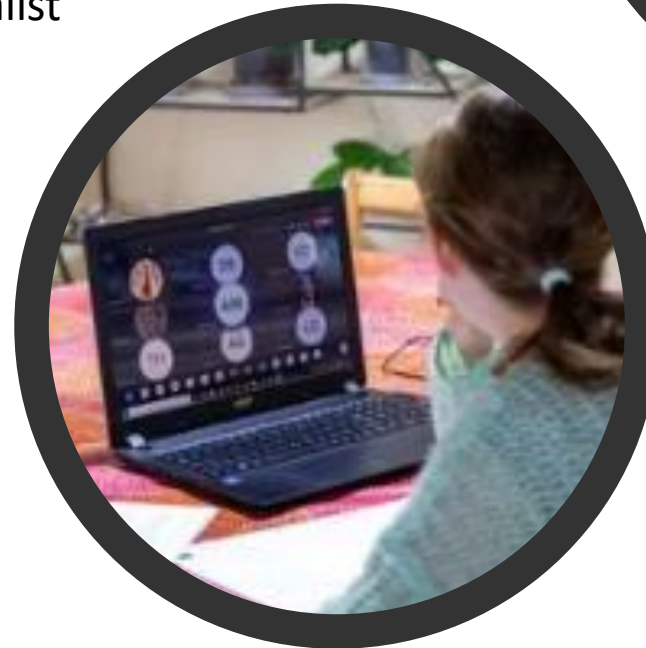
# Transition to Virtual Learning

## Training and Support

- Technology Support | Qless | Financial Assistance
- Departmental Virtual Learning “Champions”
- Instructional Coach & Instructional Technology Specialist
- Weekly Training and Support (LMS & Best Practices)
- Virtual “walk-in” help center
- Online repository

## Multiple Learning Platforms

- Blackboard Collaborate
- Microsoft Teams
- Desire2Learn
- Canvas
- Zoom







# Going the Distance





# VIRTUAL LEARNING BEST PRACTICES

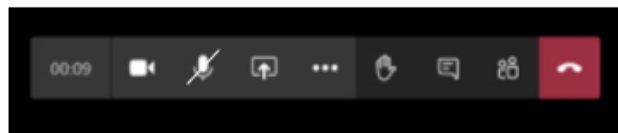
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Ms. Diana Marquez  
Accounting Operations  
Tuesdays 5:30 – 8:30 pm

# While you wait ...

- Please make sure your microphone is muted and camera is on



- Enjoy the music while we wait for everyone to join the class;
- Gather your instructional resources and presentations if you will be presenting this evening;
- Remember these cues while we have class:



## **LISTEN**

Pay attention to the presenter



## **CHAT**

Be prepared to contribute your thoughts into the CHAT area of the course



## **NOTES**

You may want to write down notes on this part of the presentation



## **GROUPS**

Be prepared to go into your breakout rooms and meet with your group





[www.bitmoji.com](http://www.bitmoji.com)



[www.online-stopwatch.com](http://www.online-stopwatch.com)

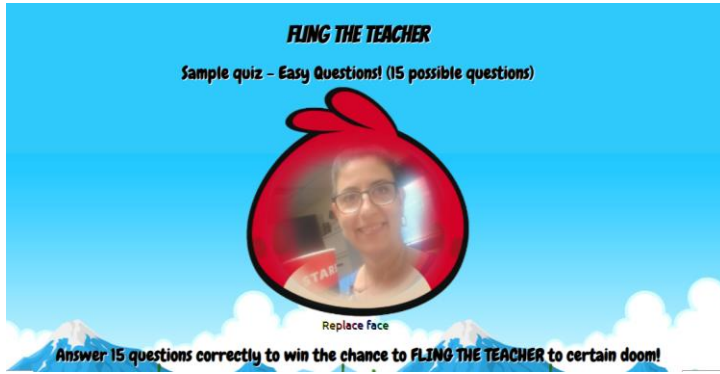


[www.classtools.com](http://www.classtools.com)

# Virtual Classroom Management

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[www.classtools.net/flingteacher/  
home-page](http://www.classtools.net/flingteacher/home-page)



[www.classtools.net/flingteacher/  
home-page](http://www.classtools.net/flingteacher/home-page)



[www.classtools.net/flingteacher/  
home-page](http://www.classtools.net/flingteacher/home-page)

# Student Engagement



Have  
FUN!



# Diana Marquez

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# Student Perspective

**Kim DiGeronimo**  
Student Ambassador  
UF Online

# Questions?

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**Kim DiGeronimo**

UF Online





# Learn More:

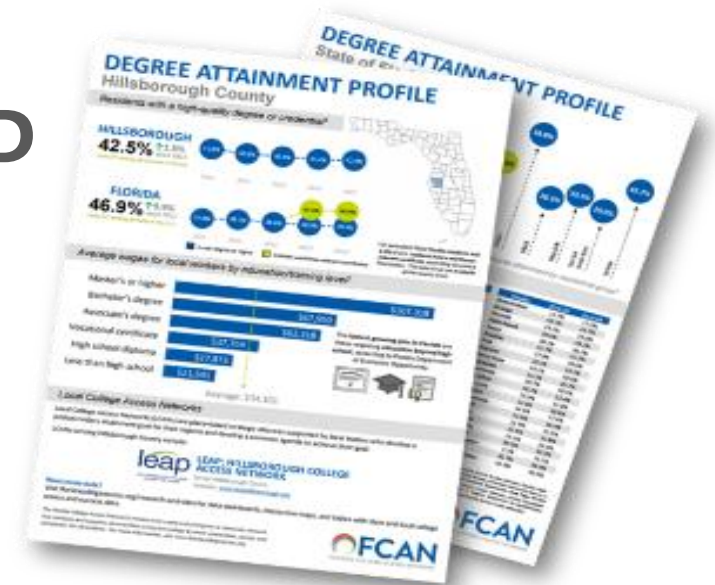
## Next up:

### Reducing Summer Melt in the Age of COVID

April 15, 1 pm – 2 pm

For upcoming webinars, policy briefs, and promising practices, subscribe at:

[FloridaCollegeAccess.org/subscribe](https://FloridaCollegeAccess.org/subscribe)



# Conclusion

