Established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors, WGU is the only university in the country offering competency-based degree programs at scale. Online and nonprofit, WGU was created to expand access to quality higher education. The university’s sole focus is on providing its students, who are busy adults, with affordable degree programs that fit their lives.

Competency-based education is an innovative approach to teaching and learning that measures learning rather than time. Rather than spending a set amount of time in a course, studying at a pace set by an instructor, students in a competency-based program study at their own pace, moving quickly through material they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn.

Required competencies for each degree program are defined in collaboration with employers, ensuring that students graduate with the real-world knowledge and skills employers need. While most online universities simply use technology to distribute classroom education, WGU actually uses technology to deliver content and facilitate learning. Students have 24/7 access to course materials, so they can schedule their studies to fit their busy lives. WGU faculty mentors work one-on-one with students, providing coaching, support, and individualized instruction as needed.

Because competency-based learning allows students to advance as soon as they demonstrate mastery of course materials, it can dramatically shorten the time to graduation—the average time to complete a bachelor’s degree at WGU is 34 months.

WGU offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and post-baccalaureate degree programs in the key workforce areas of business, information technology, K–12 teacher education (including initial teacher licensure in all 50 states), and health professions, including nursing. The university serves students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and at military installations worldwide.

---

**WGU Student Portrait**

- The average age is 37 (student ages range from 16 to 86 years old)
- 68% work full time; 14% work part time
- 73% of WGU students are classified as underserved in one or more of four categories:
  - First-generation college student: 41%
  - Low income: 31%
  - Ethnic minority: 24%
  - Rural: 17%

---

**DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>数量</td>
<td>30,006</td>
<td>9,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>百分比</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE AS OF JUNE 30, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers College</td>
<td>10,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>7,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions (including Nursing)</td>
<td>7,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>39,332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Financial Aid**

- 76% of WGU students receive some type of financial aid
- 40% of WGU undergraduates receive Pell grants
- WGU’s 3-year student loan default rate is 7.7%, compared with the national average of 14.7%

---

**$5,800 per year**

WGU is self-sustaining on tuition of $5,800 per 12-month year for most programs. Tuition has not increased since 2008.
EXPANSION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES

WGU has partnered with five states to establish state-based universities aimed at adding affordable capacity to state higher education systems. These state-branded institutions are key elements in the states’ strategies for increasing the percentage of adults with bachelor’s or master’s degrees, which is vital to their economic growth. Each state WGU is led by a chancellor, and students may be eligible for state financial aid. In 2013, two new state-based universities were established, WGU Missouri and WGU Tennessee.

WGU Indiana
- More than 1,000 graduates in the state.
- Established in 2010 as Indiana’s eighth state university by Governor Mitch Daniels.
- Enrollment has grown from 260 at launch to more than 3,200.
- Now the state’s fifth largest MBA provider.

WGU Washington
- Created by the state Legislature in 2011.
- Fourth largest transfer institution in the state.
- In two years, enrollment has grown from 900 to 4,500.
- More than 1,440 graduates in the state.

WGU Texas
- Established in 2011 through Executive Order by Governor Rick Perry, launched in February 2012.
- Enrollment has grown from 2,100 to 3,600 in less than 18 months.
- More than 1,850 graduates in the state.

WGU Missouri
- Established in February 2013 by Governor Jay Nixon.
- New enrollments have increased 150% over previous year.
- Added more than 60 employees in the state.
- Opened WGU Missouri office in St. Louis.

WGU Tennessee
- Created in July 2013 by Governor Bill Haslam.
- Establishing partnerships with community colleges and major employers in the state.
- Opened WGU Tennessee office in Nashville.

“WGU Missouri’s learning model is perfect for the Show-Me State. Students advance by showing what they’ve learned rather than logging time in class.”

—Missouri Governor Jay Nixon
FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

WGU's one-year retention rate in FY 2013 was 79%, while the average one-year retention rate at U.S. public four-year institutions was 73%.

“Western Governors University (WGU) is one of the innovators implementing promising practices that offer breakthroughs on cost, quality, or both.”

—President Obama’s 2013 Plan to Make College More Affordable, A Better Bargain for the Middle Class

COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) is a national exam that measures general education skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication.

In 2012–2013, 155 institutions participated in the CLA.
- WGU’s value-added score, measuring incremental learning, was higher than 89% of participating institutions.
- WGU seniors scored higher than seniors from 80% of participating institutions.

ONE-YEAR RETENTION

90% 80% 70% 60%

JUNE 2007 JUNE 2010 JUNE 2013

64% 72% 79%

Students in Good Academic Standing

90% 80% 70% 60%

JUNE 2007 JUNE 2010 JUNE 2013

69% 79% 85%

Student Satisfaction

100% 75% 50% 25%

JUNE 2007 JUNE 2010 JUNE 2013

87% 96% 97%

Very Satisfied

Very Satisfied

Very Satisfied

WGU's one-year retention rate in FY 2013 was 79%, while the average one-year retention rate at U.S. public four-year institutions was 73%.
NSSE is a national survey that measures student engagement. In 2013, the NSSE polled over 350,000 students from 613 institutions. Senior-level students rated WGU significantly higher than other institutions in the following key areas:

- Quality of interactions with faculty—9% higher
- Academic support—9% higher
- Challenging coursework—14% higher
- Hours spent studying—14% higher
- Acquisition of job-related knowledge and skills—9% higher
- Would attend the same institution again—28% higher
- Rating of entire educational experience—19% higher

In a 2013 survey of WGU students, 98% said they would recommend WGU. 85% said they have already recommended WGU.

“WGU is an affordable online, nonprofit institution that measures the success of its students—most of them working adults—not by credit hours but by demonstrated mastery of a subject. While such programs [like WGU’s] are now the exception, I want them to be the norm.”

—Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

“This is just the beginning. My career is just starting to expand. I’m a really strong player in my position. It has shown my children that you can do anything you want.”

—Cora Edwards, MSN—Leadership and Management

“Within two weeks of graduating, I had a job offer from Comcast. The experiences that I had at WGU really applied to the real world and really helped me in my career. Within four months, I was running the department for the Indianapolis region of Comcast.”

—Heather Cunningham, MBA

“Having a college degree is a self-gratifying goal, and with it, I plan to teach in the community I was raised in. With determination and the things I’ve learned at WGU, I know I can make a positive impact on our children of the future and show them that there is a better path.”

—Alex Sandoval, Jr., B.A. Special Education
GRADUATE SUCCESS
Comparison of results of a 2012 Harris Poll Online survey of 1,548 new college graduates nationwide with a survey of 1,079 WGU graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES</th>
<th>WGU %</th>
<th>National %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Employed</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed in Degree Field</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed Full Time</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed or Employed Part Time</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Employed, Looking for Work</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCREASE IN INCOME FOR GRADUATES
A degree from WGU pays for itself faster. WGU students experienced an average increase in income of $9,000 in the first one to three years after graduation, and an average increase of $18,600 within six years of graduation, significantly higher than the national average. With an average cost of $18,000 for a bachelor’s degree, the return on investment of a WGU degree is 2–3 years.

GRADUATE SATISFACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WGU</th>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction</td>
<td>44% Extremely Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would Recommend to Others</td>
<td>76% Would Recommend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority of Competencies Related to Work</td>
<td>80% Competencies Related to Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with Academic Help</td>
<td>42% Extremely Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction</td>
<td>80% Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would Recommend to Others</td>
<td>95% Would Recommend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority of Competencies Related to Work</td>
<td>80% Competencies Related to Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with Academic Help</td>
<td>81% Satisfied with Academic Help</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I’m impressed by the results in places like Western Governors University. Its low-cost online programs rely on competency-based progression, not class time or credit hours. It uses external assessments to evaluate student proficiency.”

—Bill Gates, “Why American Colleges Have to Change”
EMPLOYER ACCEPTANCE

EMPLOYER SATISFACTION

(2013 Survey of 200 Employers by Harris Interactive)

• 99% said that WGU graduates meet or exceed expectations; 96% said WGU graduates exceed expectations.
• 97% rated WGU graduates’ job performance as good as or better than the job performance of other graduates; 57% rated WGU graduates better than other graduates.
• 98% said they would hire another WGU graduate.
• 100% said that their WGU graduates were prepared for their jobs; 88% said they were very well or extremely well prepared.

WGU graduates hold responsible positions with major employers.

Manager, High Performance Computing, Raytheon Company
Defensive Cyber Operations Branch Chief, U.S. Navy
Division Chief, National Weather Service
Manager, Information Security, Pfizer, Inc.
Technical Solutions Architect, Facebook
Principal Engineer, U.S. Department of the Army
Infrastructure Engineer,
American Express Company
Network Engineer, Adobe Systems
Software Engineer, Microsoft Corporation
Software Development Engineer, Lockheed Martin

Director, Coca-Cola North America Group
Vice President, Information Technology,
L-3 Communications
Vice President, JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Global Program Manager, Dell, Inc.
Director of Technology Operations,
Overstock.com
Sr. Manager, Employee Relations, Best Buy
Principal Consultant, Oracle Corporation
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Manager,
The Boeing Company
Director of Engineering, Cisco Systems, Inc.

Executive Director, Missouri State Board of Nursing
VP Nursing, Yale-New Haven Hospital
Chief Clinical Officer, Kindred Healthcare
Assoc. Chief Nursing Officer,
Hospital Corporation of America
Clinical Program Coordinator,
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Director of Critical Care,
Citizens Memorial Hospital
Nurse Educator, Veterans Memorial Hospital
Director, Applied Clinical Informatics, Tenet Healthcare, Inc.
Chief Nursing Officer,
Western Maryland Hospital Center
Chief Nursing Officer,
Montclair Hospital Medical Center

Director, Coca-Cola North America Group
Vice President, Information Technology,
L-3 Communications
Vice President, JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Global Program Manager, Dell, Inc.
Director of Technology Operations,
Overstock.com
Sr. Manager, Employee Relations, Best Buy
Principal Consultant, Oracle Corporation
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Manager,
The Boeing Company
Director of Engineering, Cisco Systems, Inc.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
100% of IT employers rated WGU grads as very good or excellent.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
83% of employers rate WGU nursing graduates as very good or excellent in “evidence-based practice.”

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
98% of employers rate the “soft skills” of WGU grads as equal to or better than graduates from other institutions.

TEACHERS COLLEGE
90% of employers rate the teaching skills of WGU graduates as very good or excellent.

WGU Teachers College graduates can be found in every major U.S. school district.

Administrator, Florida Virtual School
Technical Instructor,
Lockheed Martin, U.S. Coast Guard
Dean of Students, Federal Way Public Schools
Distance Learning Facilitator,
Bering Strait School District
Trainer, New York University Medical Center
Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction Award
Gates Millennium Scholarship
Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award
Association of Public Charter Schools
Educator of the Year

“What we need are people who are truly versatile, able to learn efficiently and effectively, folks who are able to master change at the same pace as their company, and folks who are self-motivated. Those are the kind of people [who] represent graduates of Western Governors University.”

—John Steele, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, HCA