Online RA doctorate or NA?

Posted by richsseven - 2013/05/06 16:53

Hello,

First of all I am thankful for stumbling on this site. I am full time working professional as many of you are, and I've decided to go back to school. My problem is deciding on a school that is a RA, 100% online and relatively inexpensive. I realize cost in subjective. Anyhow, I earned a dual MBA, dual MA, BS and AAS from accredited schools. With these degrees is it best for me to look at only RA schools or should I consider NA as I don't wish to tarnish my resume. I don't look to be licensed per se. My expertise and majors are in Management, MIS, CIS, and Graphic Design. I currenlty live near St Louis and hope to transfer to San Antonio. Thanks in advance!

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Re:Online RA doctorate or NA?

Posted by VickyPhillips - 2013/05/07 09:32

Hi Rich,

Thanks for the question.

Does RA mean regionally accredited?
Does NA mean nationally accredited?

For background on issues on choosing one or the other type of college accreditation, see our advice article on online colleges and accreditation:

Online College Types of Accreditation
http://www.geteducated.com/diploma-mills-police/college-degree-mills/203-what-is-online-college-accreditation

Regional Accreditation Vs National Accreditation
http://www.geteducated.com/diploma-mills-police/college-degree-mills/156-regional-or-national-accreditation

Are your undergraduate degrees and masters ALL from RA colleges?

What major area are you looking at for your doctorate degree?

We do list about 130 online doctorate programs.
SEE:http://www.geteducated.com/profiles/search/online-phd&SS=Search%20by%20Level%20%3E%20Online%20PHD

Most all of these are RA programs.
You can sort these by type of accreditation and choose to see either or both.
The default search will show you both.

All the Best

Vicky

richsseven wrote:
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Re:Online RA doctorate or NA?
Posted by richsseven - 2013/05/07 11:51

Thank you ma'am for your reply.

Yes RA is regional accreditation and NA is national. All my degrees are RA. I'm in the military and I earned these degrees with the help of TA, GI Bill and some out of pocket. My AAS is from the CC of the AF while my BS is from Wayland Baptist. My MA is from Webster Univ and MBA is from Northcentral Univ (NCU). I was pursuing a DBA at NCU till a divorce and physical move caused me to hold off studies. Now I find myself with 9 possible DBA transfer credit hours and a decision to make. I started with NCU's MBA+PhD/DBA combo in 2002 so my clock is up. Since I plan to budget my studies, cost is a huge factor. I think a DBA is cheaper than a PhD. And I am not closed to an EdD. Majors I am looking at are Business Admin, Public Admin, Leadership as well as Education and MIS, if that helps. I have experience as an adjunct at San Antonio College and New Mexico State University, and someday I may decide to teach master's level coursework somewhere. Thanks again for your assist.

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Re:Online RA doctorate or NA?
Posted by VickyPhillips - 2013/05/07 12:35

Hi Rich,

Since all your past education is regionally accredited and you are going for a top level professional degree -- the doctorate -- I'd encourage you to stick with regionally accredited colleges. The reason is that this type of accreditation will give you the widest employment and career clout AND most regionally accredited colleges require this type of doctorate for teaching and or administration work.

The one benefit to a NA doctorate might be a lower cost as NA accredited schools do general cost about 30% less in tuition and fees BUT I am not thinking that that kind of cost savings might be worth it in your case. If it were my decision I would stick with RA doctorates. Also, you will have much more choice if you go RA rather than NA as very-very few NA schools offer a doctorate degree.

RE:

"Now I find myself with 9 possible DBA transfer credit hours and a decision to make. I started with NCU's MBA+PhD/DBA combo in 2002 so my clock is up."

Have you considered petitioning Northcentral University online to extend your time to degree? You have extenuating circumstances and most colleges will entertain petitions for re-instatement to degree status through a formal petition status. I suggest this only if you LIKED that program as it would save you the hassle of transfer credits and starting all over again.

RE:

"Since I plan to budget my studies, cost is a huge factor. I think a DBA is cheaper than a PhD. And I am not closed to an EdD. Majors I am looking at are Business Admin, Public Admin, Leadership as well as Education and MIS, if that helps. I have experience as an adjunct at San Antonio College and New Mexico State University, and someday I may decide to teach master's level coursework somewhere."

I am not sure a DBA would always be cheaper than a PhD. An online DBA is usually faster with fewer theory courses and a capstone project or paper as opposed to a prolonged research thesis. The research thesis phase of an online PHD does often take up to a year or more to complete with hefty fees for advising along the way.

Based on your ed background I'd say a education phd would be take longer bcs your masters work and formal prep is in business. So, a DBA or doctorate in leadership, management or public admin seems like a better fit for meeting grad pre-requisites and for your teaching career.

Are there doctorate schools other than NCU that you are looking at?

Vicky

richsseven wrote:
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Re:Online RA doctorate or NA?

Posted by richsseven - 2013/05/07 14:26

Thank you for your very honest and prompt feedback Vicky! I didn't realize NA schools offered a possible 30% savings. A degree from an RA would certainly allow me to sleep at night! I have however, heard

that California Southern and Tennessee Temple Univ have applied or will apply for RA. Have you heard anything of this?

To answer your question, I enjoyed my time at NCU. There seemed to be quite the turnover of Advisors, which after a few courses, one got used to very quickly. If I pursued NCU I would enroll as a new student, meaning my very low cost grandfathered tuition rate is gone. This is why I am entertaining other schools, and possibling adding a mix to my resume all the while.

I appreciate your explanation of PhD vs DBA vs EdD study lengths.

I have been looking at some schools. In no particular order or accrediation status, they are as follows: Liverpool, Columbia Southern, California Coast, Nova, Sullivan, Johnson, Tennessee Temple, Boise State, Dakota State, West Georgia, and Heriot-Watt. I have not heard back from UNISA or UNIZUL.

Thank you,
Rich

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