

# Opportunities and Limitations of Online Education



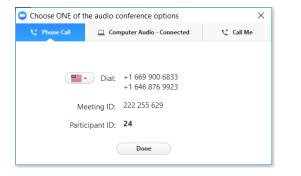
Jahanara Saeed Senior Analyst jsaeed@eab.com

Academic Affairs Forum

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### Start with best practices research

- Research Forums for presidents, provosts, chief business officers, and key academic and administrative leaders
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Institutions we are proud to serve

Goal: Make education smarter





Three Myths About Online Learning



MOOCs and MOOC Providers Today

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**Online Education or Learning** will refer to the broad category that will include hybrid, blended, and fully online courses and programs. When referring to IPEDS data, we will use online education to include all distance education courses and programs.

**Exclusively Online** will refer to courses or programs where instruction is fully online. When referring to IPEDS data, it will include "exclusively" distance education courses and programs.

**Some Online or Blended** will refer to students who are taking some but not all courses online. When referring to IPEDS data, it will include "some but not all" distance education courses and programs.

**Hybrid Learning** will refer to courses that are web-enhanced or where both face-to-face and online instruction takes place. This category primarily refers to the pedagogy of instruction.

**Exclusively Face-to-Face** will refer to courses without any online learning components. When referring to IPEDS data, it will include students who have taken no distance education courses.

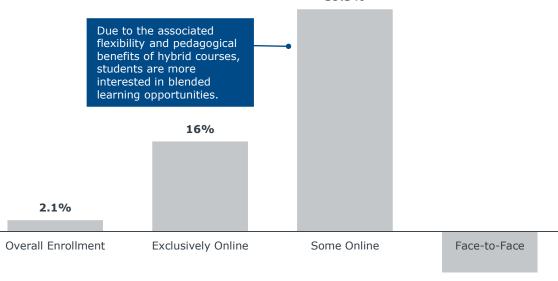
Source: Frank Mayadas, Gary Miller, and John Sener, "Updated E-Learning Definitions," Online Learning Consortium, last modified July 7, 2015; "2017-18 Survey Materials: Glossary," National Center for Education Statistics.

### **Online Courses Increasingly Popular**

### Online Enrollment Growth Outpaces Face-to-Face Enrollment Growth

#### Enrollment in Online and Hybrid Courses and Programs Continues to Grow

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



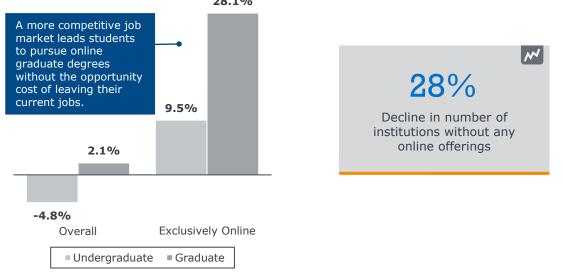
39.3%

## Online Enrollment Bucks Overall Market Trends

Online Graduate and Undergraduate Enrollment Outpaces General Changes

#### Online Enrollment Growth at Both Graduate and Undergraduate Level Outpaces Overall Enrollment Changes

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions by degree-level, 2012-2016 28.1%

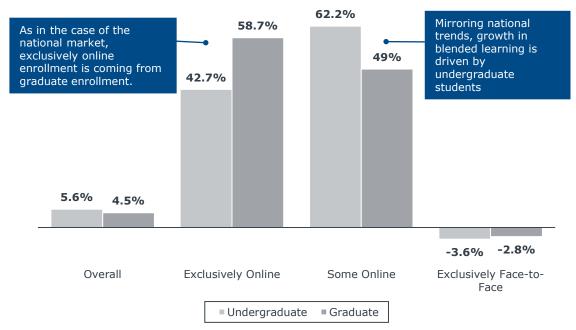


### Segment Overview: Research Universities

### Graduate Enrollment Contributing to Major Online Growth

#### **Exclusively Online Enrollment Growth Driven by Graduate Students**

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



### Institutional Snapshot: Research Universities



Top Ten Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

Institution Name	State	Control	Total Exclusively Online Enrollments 2016	Total Some Online Enrollments 2016	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016 <sup>1</sup>
University of Texas at Arlington	ТΧ	Public	15,510	5,820	21
University of Central Florida	FL	Public	10,035	26,072	43
Florida International University	FL	Public	8,495	21,631	33
Johns Hopkins University	MD	Private	6,658	2,224	69
University of Florida	FL	Public	6,309	24,411	61
Oregon State University	OR	Public	5,682	5,569	48
University of Southern California	CA	Private	5,435	1,587	11
University of Cincinnati-Main Campus	ОН	Public	5,295	9,196	57
University of South Florida	FL	Public	4,995	16,666	24
Georgia Institute of Technology	GA	Public	4,877	0	9

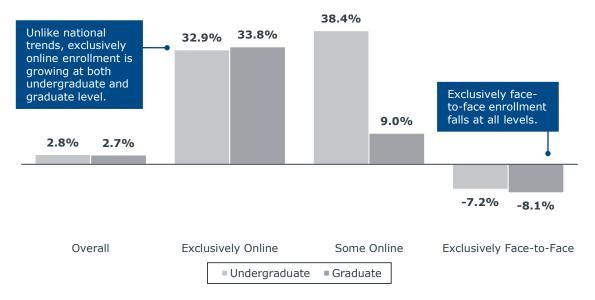
Source: EAB analysis of IPEDS data; "2U Announces 12-Year Contract Extension with USC Rossier School of Education," *Cision PR Newswire*, April 13, 2016.; Merrill Balassone, "USC embraces online graduate education," *USC News*, September 17, 2012.

## Segment Overview: Regional Public Universities

Surprisingly, Online Grad and Undergrad Enrollment Growing at Same Rate

# Graduate and Undergraduate Students Increasingly Interested in Online Education

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



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### **Institutional Snapshot: Regional Publics**



Top Ten Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

Institution Name	State	Total Exclusively Online Enrollments 2016	Total Some Online Enrollments 2016	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016 <sup>2</sup>
University of Maryland-University College <sup>1</sup>	MD	44,308	6,624	119
Arizona State University-Skysong <sup>1</sup>	AZ	24,630	287	62
Pennsylvania State University-World Campus <sup>1</sup>	PA	13,411	-	120
Thomas A. Edison State University <sup>1</sup>	NJ	12,441	48	60
Colorado State University, Global Campus <sup>1</sup>	СО	11,605	-	26
Fort Hays State University	KS	9,946	1,800	37
St. Petersburg College	FL	9,215	7,134	44
Ohio University	ОН	8,082	4,095	23
Troy University	AL	6,602	2,104	34
East Carolina University	NC	6,526	5,607	59

 Based on analysis of the number of programs in which there are completions in 2016.

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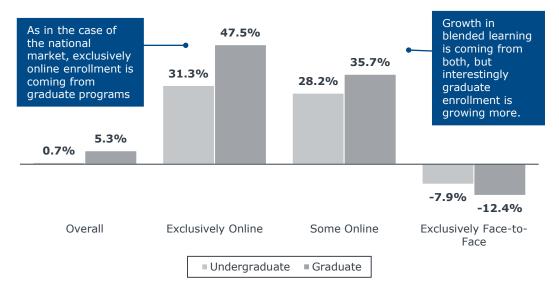
Source: EAB analysis of IPEDS data; "Online Distance Education," Eastern Carolina University.

## Segment Overview: Regional Private Universities

The Emergence of the Multimodal Graduate Student

#### **Exclusively Online Enrollment Growth Driven by Graduate Students**

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



### **Institutional Snapshot: Regional Privates**

Top Ten Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

Institution Name	State	Total Exclusively Online Enrollments 2016	Total Some Online Enrollments 2016	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016 <sup>1</sup>
Western Governors University	UT	84,289	-	61
Southern New Hampshire University	NH	61,495	2,478	105
Liberty University	VA	60,850	6,916	92
Excelsior College	DC	41,658	-	61
Brigham Young University- Idaho	ID	25,820	10,006	13
National University	CA	11,599	1,569	77
Columbia College	МО	9,308	2,754	37
Keiser University-Ft Lauderdale	FL	8,375	193	57
Nova Southeastern University	FL	7,933	2,960	86
Saint Leo University	FL	7,922	1,977	62

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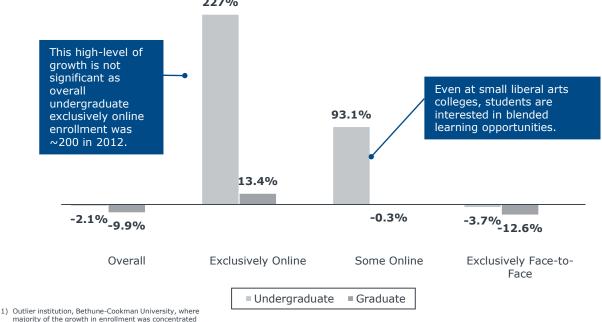
 Based on analysis of the number of programs in which there are completions in 2016.

## Segment Overview: Liberal Arts Colleges

Despite Growth in Online Enrollment, Face-To-Face Learning Still Dominates

#### Exclusively Online Enrollment Growth Driven by Undergraduate Students<sup>1</sup>

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



227%

was excluded to more accurately reflect the segment

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### Institutional Snapshot: Liberal Arts Colleges



Top Ten Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

Institution Name	State	Total Exclusively Online Enrollments 2016	Total Some Online Enrollments 2016 <sup>1</sup>	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016 <sup>1</sup>
Bethune-Cookman University	FL	1,808	0	3
Georgetown College	KY	540	41	2
McDaniel College	MD	335	205	7
Schreiner University	ТХ	165	11	3
Erskine College	SC	153	134	0
William Peace University	NC	150	76	3
Goucher College	MD	80	131	1
Bennington College	VT	79	0	0
Drew University	NJ	63	50	0
Salem College	NC	62	39	1

1) Based on analysis of the number of programs in which there are completions in 2016.

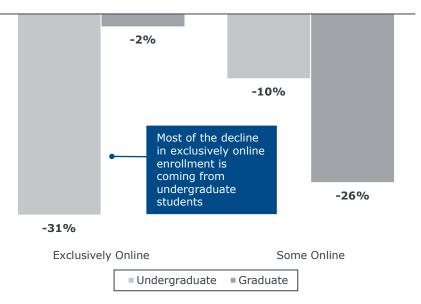
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## Segment Overview: For-Profit Universities

Enrollment Declines Across Modalities and Program Levels

#### For-Profits Continue to Face Declining Enrollment

Percentage change in student enrollment at four-year, degree-granting institutions, 2012-2016



Source: EAB analysis of IPEDS data; Doug Lederman, "For-Profit Free Fall Continues, U.S. Data Shows", *Inside Higher Ed*, June 6, 2018.

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### Institutional Snapshot: For-Profit Universities

Top Ten Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

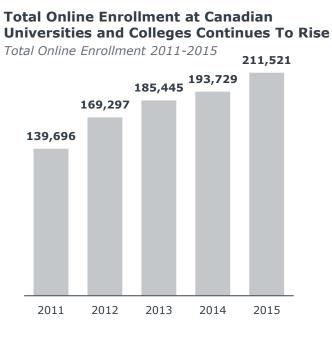
Institution Name <sup>1</sup>	Stat e	Total Exclusively Online Enrollments 2016	Total Some Online Enrollments 2016	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016 <sup>2</sup>	
University of Phoenix-Arizona	AZ	128,410	922	125	
Walden University	MN	52,565	-	116	
American Public University System	WV	48,623	-	154	
Ashford University	CA	41,343	0	68	.,
Capella University	MN	37,569	-	202	Ì
Colorado Technical University-Colorado Springs	СО	24,132	560	41	
Columbia Southern University	AL	21,442	-	50	
DeVry University-Illinois	IL	16,461	1,554	37	
Full Sail University	FL	12,983	6,290	30	
Northcentral University	AZ	10,916	-	21	



Online Enrollment Landscape

### Segment Overview: Canadian Institutions

A Mature Online Market with Opportunity for Growth in Hybrid Learning



Share of institutions offering online education

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Share of institutions where hybrid courses are fewer than 10% of all courses



Source: Tony Bates, Brian Desbiens, Tricia Donovan ,Eric Martel, Denis Mayer, Ross Paul, Russell Poulin, and Jeff Seaman, *Tracking Online and Distance Education in Canadian Universities and Colleges*: 2017 (Vancouver: The National Survey of Online and Distance Education in Canadian Post-Secondary Education, 2017).

### Institutional Snapshot: Canadian Institutions



Top Five Institutions by Exclusively Online Enrollment

	Institution Name <sup>1</sup>	Province	Total Enrollment 2017	Total Some Online Enrollments 2017	Number of Programs Offered Online 2016
I I I	Athabasca University	Alberta	Over 40,000	-	50
-	Royal Roads University	British Columbia	4240	-	11
	Thompson Rivers University	British Columbia	13,471	1,160	60
	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Newfoundland & Labrador	18080	-	25
	TÉLUQ University	Quebec	20,000	-	

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Online Enrollment Landscape



### Three Myths About Online Learning



MOOCs and MOOC Providers Today

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Despite Growth in Online and Hybrid Enrollment, Misconceptions Persist

#### Myth: Online Learning is Less Expensive to Scale



Scaling online education is as easy as printing money. One course can enroll hundreds of students!"

Chief Financial Officer

#### Myth: Online Education is Less Effective Than Face-To-Face Instruction



Online learning can never replicate traditional classrooms. How can faculty effectively support students they don't even know?"

Faculty Skeptic

#### Myth: Online Learning Makes Geographic Boundaries Irrelevant



With just a click of a button we can enroll students across the globe. The world is our oyster!"

Board Member

## Myth: Online Learning is Less Expensive to Scale



Expectation that Online Courses Unaffected by Space and Time Constraints

#### Not Exactly "Scale"

Illustrative Example		Face-to-Face	Online
	Space and scheduling constraints limit scalability of face-to-face courses.		
		ŤŦŤŦŤŦ	******
Faculty Salary		<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>
Dedicated Student Suppo	ort Staff	*	<
Learning Management Sy	/stem Cost	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>
Partnership with Online F	Program Management Vendor	*	<
Instructional Designers		×	
Course Development Stip	pends	×	
Online Pedagogy Training	]	×	
		technology overcomes traints but course deve	

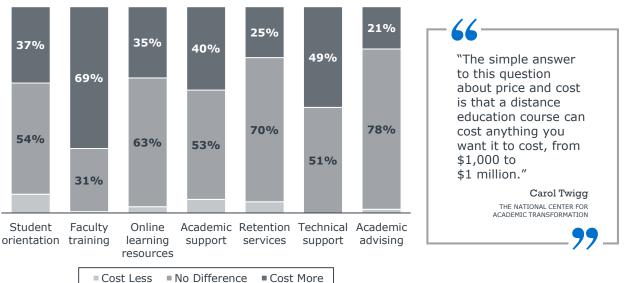
constraints but course development costs and need for frequent faculty-student interaction can limit scalability.

## Reality: Key Determinants of Cost Unchanged



#### No Consistent Trend About Cost of Online Education Compared to Face-to-Face

*Proportion of Respondents Comparing the Cost of Supporting Students and Faculty in Distance Education Courses to Similar Face-To-Face Ones*<sup>1</sup>



 WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technology broke down the cost of distance education courses into four categories covering a total of 24 subcomponents. This is a visualization of one cost category.

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Source: David L. Clinefelter and Carol B. Aslanian, Online College Students 2017: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences (Louisville: The Learning House, Inc., 2017); Russell Poulin and Terri Taylor Straut, WCET Distance Education Price and Cost Report (Boulder: WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies, 2017).

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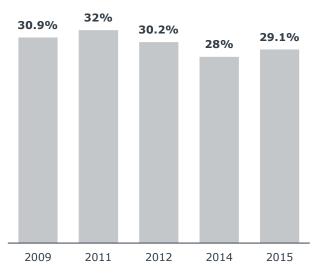
## Myth: Online Learning Inherently Less Effective



Faculty and Administrators Continue to Question the Quality of Online Ed

#### Faculty Acceptance of Online Education has Remained Fairly Consistent

Share of Chief Academic Officers Who Think Faculty Accept the Legitimacy of Online Education, 2009-2015





#### Faculty Resistance to Online Ed Continues to Make Headlines

The Trouble With Online Education. (*The New York Times*, July 19, 2012)

Professors hate online education. To save colleges, they have to learn to love it. (*The Washington Post*, April 27, 2016)

Why Faculty Still Don't Want to Teach Online. (*Inside Higher Ed*, December 13, 2016)

Teach Online...Before It's Too Late (*Inside Higher Ed*, February 13, 2017)

Why I Won't Teach Online. (*Inside Higher Ed.* March 7, 2018)

Overcoming Faculty Resistance – or Not. (*Inside Higher Ed*, March 14, 2018)

Source: I. Elaine Allen, Jeff Seaman, Russell Poulin and Terri Taylor Straut, Online Report Card: Tracking Online Education in the United States (Babson Park: Babson Research Group and Quahog Research Group, LLC. 2016).

## Reality: Modality Does Not Dictate Quality

### Student Learning Linked to Pedagogy and Access to Support Services

#### Sample Strategies to Improve Student Outcomes



#### **Facilitated Interactions With Peers**

- Moderated discussion forums
- Opportunity for peer feedback





#### **Interactive Software**

- Majority of "class-time" devoted to problem-solving
- Determine when content is available to students based on a set criteria e.g. completion of an assignment



#### **Individualized Support**

- On-demand assistance from tutors
- Personalized feedback for both success and failure

Source: Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning: A Meta-Analysis and Review of Online Learning Studies (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, 2010); EAB interviews and analysis.



#### **Structured Progress Incentives**

- · Grades based on multiple milestones
- Instructor and student progress dashboards

## Myth: Online Ed Makes Geography Irrelevant

Web Access Creates Expectations of International Enrollment Growth

#### "Global" and "World" Campuses' Enrollment Still Primarily Domestic

World Campus

PennState

3%

4%

6%

Of all exclusively online students reside abroad, 2016

Of all exclusively online

TOURO University Worldwide

, 77

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CAMPUS

Of all exclusively online students reside abroad, 2016

students reside abroad, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS GLOBAL CAMPUS SCHORE OF DEVENIENCE OFFENCE 2%

1%

2%

Of all exclusively online students reside abroad, 2016

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CAMPUS

Of all exclusively online students reside abroad, 2016



Of all exclusively online students reside abroad, 2016

"...Penn State's World Campus will continue to attract place-bound learners from around the globe, ensuring the University has a global footprint."

> Pennsylvania State University Strategic Plan for 2016-2020

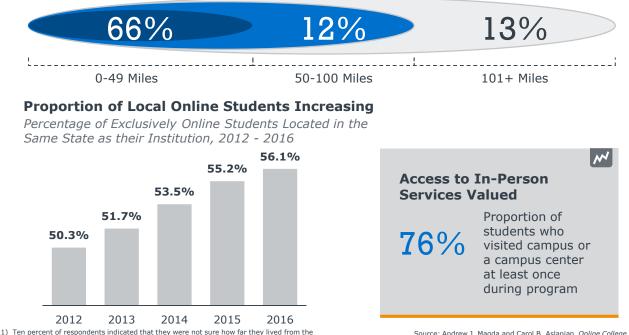
Source: EAB analysis of IPEDS data; Audrey Watters, "Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2012: MOOCS", Inside Higher Ed, December 18, 2012.; "Our Commitment to Impact: The Pennsylvania State University's Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2020," Pennsylvania State University, 2016.

### Reality: Most Online Students Reside In-State

### Online Students Value Access to In-Person Services

#### **Online Students are Local to their Institution**

Online Student Distance from Institution, 20181



(c) The percent of respondents indicated that they were not sure now far they need from the closest campus/service center of the college/university in which they enrolled (2018 by EAB. All Rights Reserved. eab.com) Source: Andrew J. Magda and Carol B. Aslanian, Online College Students 2018: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences (Louisville: The Learning House, Inc., 2018); FAB analysis of IPEDS data.

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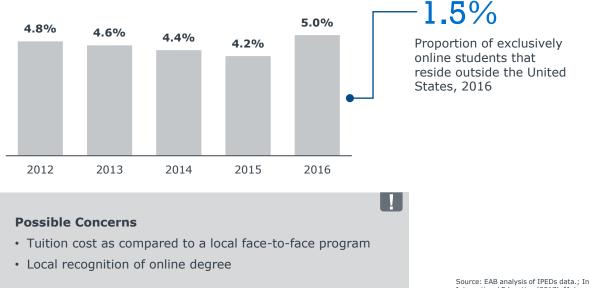
## Reality: Foreign Students Want To Be On-Campus



Concerns About Cost, Quality, and Recognition Limit Student Choices

#### **Proportion of Foreign Online Students has Remained Flat**

*Number of Students Taking Exclusively Online Courses Located Outside the United States as a Proportion of all Enrolled International Students, 2012-2016*<sup>1</sup>



Does not include international students who are enrolled in Optional Practical Training

Source: EAB analysis of IPEDs data; Institute of International Education (2017). "International Student Enrollment Trends, 1948/49-2016/17." Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange; Christopher Ziguras, "Will global online higher education ever take off?", University World News, January 19, 2018.

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Three Myths About Online Learning





### Lessons from MOOCs

### MOOC Hype Led to Myths About Quality, Cost, and Reach of Online Ed

"...nothing has more potential to enable us to reimagine higher education than the massive open online course...I can see a day soon where you'll create your own college degree by taking the best online courses from the best professors from around the world...paying only the nominal fee for the certificates of completion. It will change teaching, learning and the pathway to employment"

Thomas Friedman, New York Times columnist

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"In 50 years there will only be ten institutions in the world delivering higher education"

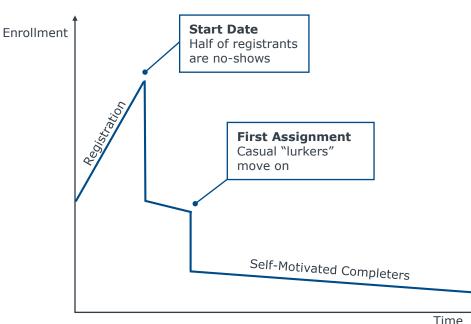
Sebastian Thrun, former CEO of Udacity

Source: Thomas L. Friedman, "Revolution Hits the Universities," The New York Times, January 26, 2013.; Steven Leckart, "The Stanford Education Experiment Could Change Higher Learning Forever," Wired, March 20, 2012.

### The Illusion of Scale



### Vast Majority of MOOC Registrants Drop Out by First Assignment



#### **Typical MOOC Enrollment Pattern**

### **Separating Fact from Fiction**



Understanding the Actual and Predicted Impacts of MOOCs

#### **MOOCs Not Disrupting...**



Institutions not granting credit for MOOCs to students not enrolled and not paying tuition

# ...But Leading to a Revitalization of Teaching Practice



Experimentation with accelerated content and condensed course timelines



Outside of computer programming, MOOC performance not leading directly to job offers



Vast majority of MOOC students already have baccalaureate degree



Faculty not leaving the institution to pursue MOOCs full-time



Willingness to develop online content for future hybrid courses and flipped classrooms



Prioritization of learning outcomes over knowledge transfer in course development

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Development of new, short online credentials and digital badges

### **Evolution of MOOC Providers**

From Potential Disruptors to Strategic Partners



Initial Ambitions

- Launched in April 2012 by Stanford professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller
- Focus on free, open enrollment courses

"Pay-to-Play"

The number and

services that were

range of features and

once free has shrunk



- Launched in May 2012 by MIT and Harvard
- Focus on free, open enrollment courses



- Launched in January 2012 by Stanford professor Sebastian Thrun
- Focus on free, open enrollment courses

2018 Focus

#### **Three Common Changes**

#### OPM-Like Business Model

Change of focus to online program enablement as opposed to a platform to host individual courses

#### Creation of MOOCbased degrees

For example, Udacity partnered with Georgia Tech to develop a lowcost master's in computer science

Source: Dhawal Shah, "MOOCs Find Their Audience: Professional Learners and Universities", *EdSurge*, July 7, 2017; Phil Hill, "MOOCs Noe Focused on Paid Certificates and OPM Market", *e-Literate*, July 6, 2017.

## **Modality Debate Misses Market Distinctions**

Three Unique Student Segments Comprise Online Opportunity



#### Multimodal Undergraduates

*Opting for Convenience and Enrichment* 



#### Professional Graduate Students

*Investing in Career Advancement* 



#### Adult Degree Completers

Looking for Fast, Flexible Degrees

#### Goals and Motivations

Selection

Process

- On-Time Graduation
- Curricular Exploration
- Promotion
- Career Change

- Location
- Reputation
- Cost

- "Search and Shop"
- Reputation in Industry

- On-Time Graduation
- Curricular Exploration
- "Search and Shop"
- Cost
- Convenience

### We Hope You'll Join Us Next Time

Upcoming Webconferences in the Series



Jahanara Saeed Senior Analyst jsaeed@eab.com What Multimodal Undergraduates Seek in Blended Learning Opportunities 36

Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 12 PM ET – 1PM ET

<u>How to Serve Professional Graduate Students in a</u> <u>Saturated Online Market</u> Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 1PM ET – 2PM ET

How to Attract and Support Online Adult Degree Completer Students Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

12PM ET- 1PM ET



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