

# Interview Questions

## Potential Radio, Print, Internet or Television Interview Questions Include:

Q: Who can make a living teaching online?

A: There are opportunities for many different professionals with an education. Professional experience goes a long way in the academic world – those with real world experience are able to apply practical concepts to theory in the classroom; a well-sought capability. Many find that after having their jobs outsourced or losing them due to downsizing, online teaching is a great opportunity to live by their own rules, make more money than they did in Corporate America, spend time with their families while working and having the flexibility to travel and make their own schedules. Those with degrees, former military, and professionals – just about anyone can begin their career teaching online.

Q: Why is online education booming and what's causing the increase in demand for faculty?

A: Online education is very profitable for universities. Traditional schools either attract local-only candidates or are major universities offering dormitories and on-campus housing from individuals moving there for their education. This eliminates almost anyone with family responsibilities and full time jobs. To tap into those markets, many universities (even those that were strictly traditional schools) have created online programs to educate this market sector. Pure online schools often have the same accreditation (hence they must meet the same standards) as even Ivy League schools, yet they are profitable and serve students all over the world. People demand flexibility in this hectic world, and online education provides a way for full time workers and those with families to get a fully accredited degree on their own schedule. This is driving the need for adjuncts, because primarily the online schools or online programs hire adjunct (part time, contract) faculty.

Q: I have no teaching experience, can I teach online?

A: Absolutely. Every one of us had to start some where. Experience can be creatively constructed, from teaching seminars at work to brown bag lunches. All it takes is one online teaching job to gain experience and then expand your career into multiple schools and lots of classes.

Q: Why would someone choose an online organization over a traditional one?

A: There are lots of reasons. Traditional education has requirements that are similar to corporate America, but geared toward education. There's a very firm structure, particular on-ground office hours, requirements for publishing and sometimes grants. Online organizations let you run your own business – you just happen to do it teaching!

Q: How do online teachers make more than traditional educators?

A: There are many reasons online adjuncts can earn more than traditional educators. For starters, adjuncts are contractors. They are not bound to working for only one university; therefore they can teach courses online, which over time take less time to teach, and can accumulate numerous courses to earn even more. Online teachers cannot be tenure track, but they can easily earn double or triple what traditional faculty earns. The only downside is the lack of benefits that adjuncts must deal with.

Q: Is the flexibility in online teaching as an educator really as good as people say?

A: Probably better. You can teach from anywhere you have Internet access; café's, your own laptop and WiFi, even your PDA. This is the ultimate job for flexibility and setting your own hours!

Q: Is teaching online as well respected as teaching in a traditional model? What about the quality of education?

A: College-level teaching is prestigious as long as you are not working for a Diploma Mill. The quality of education for accredited institutions is exactly the same as any Ivy League school! Over time, online education has become far more accepted by the business and academic worlds, leading to increased credibility. Many have predicted that most will be earning degrees online within a few years, so what credibility may lack today (which is minimal) will most certainly not be an issue in the future. Regardless of the institution you work for, you are helping learners become better professionals and scholars; that is prestigious in and of itself.

Q: If I'm already a college professor, how does this book help me?

A: In many ways. First, you may at some point want to cut back on hours or work from home, particularly as you near retirement. This is a great opportunity for you to do so. Also, many schools will let you hold adjunct positions elsewhere, which is excellent supplemental income!

Q: Do online teaching jobs provide job security and stability?

A: While you are a contractor technically, there are many ways to secure your position within the schools you work for. Being the "best of the best", teaching a rare subject, becoming a subject matter expert, and being extraordinarily responsive to students are just some of the ways you can retain stability. In all, the authors have found online schools more stable than Corporate America!