

# AN ONLINE MBA VS. IN-PERSON: WHAT'S BETTER FOR YOU?



# PROVIDING BUSINESS INSIGHT THROUGH THE LENS OF BEST *FOR* THE WORLD LEADERS

At Pepperdine Graziadio, we believe that fulfilling our mission of developing Best *for* the World Leaders requires equipping our students with the knowledge and resources needed to evoke a positive imprint on their industries and communities. With our Graziadio Guide, we dive into diverse topics ranging from current business trends to ongoing activities within our values-based community to amplify our focus on service, purpose, and leadership.

# WE INTEND TO inform & inspire THROUGH POWERFUL STORYTELLING



### FIND YOUR FIT: ONLINE VS. ON-GROUND DEGREE PROGRAMS

When it comes to earning an education, finding the best option that fits your needs is highly essential. And choosing between pursuing an online or a traditional on-ground program can be challenging, as each program provides different academic benefits and experiences. To help narrow your search, we will look at key differences between the two modalities, what to consider when choosing, and how to get the most out of your experience.

#### THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ONLINE VS. ON-GROUND

Typically, the starkest differences when choosing an on-ground or online program are three main differentiators: location, course format, and costs.



ONLINE

# LOCATION

Due to astounding technological advancements, earning your MBA online can be accomplished from anywhere in the world. Whether you live on California's sandy beaches or the icy Arctic Tundra in Alaska, there are no limitations on where you can complete your education. While you may be able to tune into your degree from any coordinate that can catch WiFi, an online degree can require more discipline to stay on task and meet the expectations of the course. On the contrasting side, an on-ground MBA provides the benefits of face-toface connections with your peers and faculty and access to all of the excellent campus facilities, and the option to engage in more social activities. While an in-person degree still requires a large amount of discipline to meet expectations, it can help bring in a more hands-on environment depending on what type of learning environment you thrive best in.

# FLEXIBILITY

While both on-ground and online programs require you to attend class, there are differences between the two. With an online MBA, students attend class from home in a virtual format, while onground requires you to be physically present within the classroom. Additionally, classwork is typically self-paced with an online MBA program, allowing a little more flexibility if you have additional work commitments.

Another critical aspect to consider is program length. An on-ground MBA program has specific terms, with the opportunity to complete in as little as one year or at a more comfortable pace of 20-months. With an online MBA, the timeframe is less rigid, allowing you to earn your MBA on a timetable that works with your schedule.

# **OPPORTUNITY COST**

Opportunity cost is "the loss of potential gain from other alternatives when one alternative is chosen." For either program, there are opportunity costs that need to be taken into consideration. For individuals desiring to attend school on-ground, sacrificing luxuries such as no commute or a cheaper living cost is less important if they can attend school in person. On the contrasting side, those who don't find having an in-person experience with more physical, social opportunities as significant as flexibility and earning an MBA online are more likely to be fitting. What's most crucial in this scenario is to weigh the most important factors to you and go from there.

PEPPERDINE GRAZIADIO



#### WANT TO LEARN HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MBA?

**READ HERE**