University of Kentucky

UK Online Initiative

Our Path Forward

UK Online Mission

As a land grant institution, the University of Kentucky serves the needs of the Commonwealth and improves the lives of its people.

We plan to expand UK's reach and offerings by leveraging the talents of our world-class faculty to build online programs that meet the needs of new student populations and the workforce.

Goals

To support the University's mission and values while responding to student and workforce needs, UK Online will:

- Increase UK's portfolio of high-quality, online programs;
- Improve student access to a UK education;
- Expand enrollment with new student populations; and
- Increase number of degrees.

Changing Landscape of Higher Ed

In a report released in 2016, the Babson Survey Research Group found that 5.8 million, more than a quarter of higher education students, were enrolled in at least one online course. At UK, 990 students are in the process of completing an online degree.

Project Graduate

Project Graduate is a statewide initiative to assist adult learners who have accumulated 80 or more credit hours to return to finish their first Bachelor's degree.

An ongoing audit of former students from the College of Arts & Sciences has identified more than 50 who have fulfilled requirements for the BLS degree. Students who lack requirements will be given a completion plan and invited to register for online classes.

Two online degrees in development with UK Online (business and communication) will increase the avenues and chances for students to receive a UK degree via Project Graduate.

Programs Selected

As a result of a call for proposals, colleges submitted 48 ideas for innovative programs that will reach new student populations. From these proposals, 26 were selected:

- 8 Master's Degrees,
- 12 Graduate Certificates,
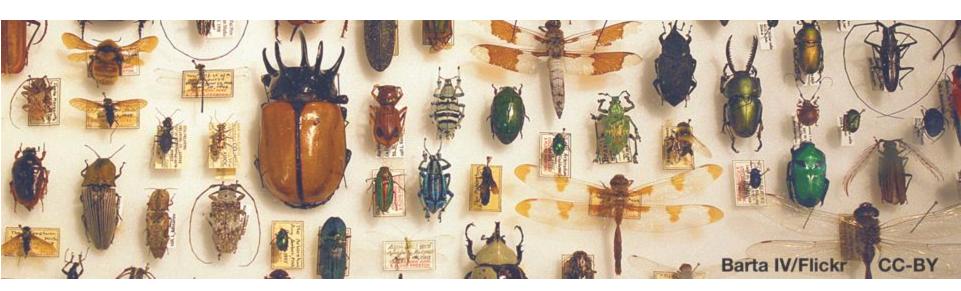- 3 Bachelor's/Completer Degrees, and
- 3 Undergraduate Certificates.

New Program Examples

Entomology

- Online master's degree that will provide career advancement for professionals in public health, urban pest control, the military, agriculture, and other fields.
- Responds to the emerging need for professionals with specialized training in disease, vector, and pest control.

New Program Examples

Licensed Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program
- The first in Kentucky.
- Allows Licensed Practical Nurses to earn their bachelor's degrees in Nursing.

Distillation, Wine, and Brewing Studies
- An undergraduate certificate in a multi-billion-dollar industry.
- Includes industry partnerships.

Market Analysis of LPN-to-BSN

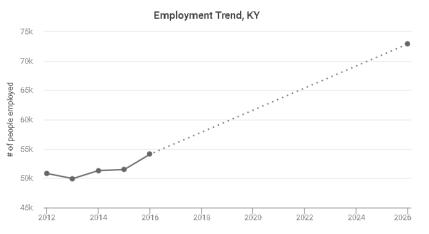For your project criteria, there were

10,788

job postings in the last 12 months

There were:

- 322,302 total job postings in your selected location

- 82,892 total job postings requesting a bachelor's degree in your selected location

The number of people employed is expected to **grow** over the next 10 years*

	Selected Occupations	Total Labor Market	Relative Growth
Kentucky	34.76 %	15.20 %	High
Nationwide	16.82 %	6.50 %	High

Employment Trend, KY

* Source: Employment and employment projections data from the BLS

Established Programs

Existing Online Programs:

- Digital Mapping (Graduate Certificate, Master's)
- Educational Leadership Studies (Doctorate)
- Library and Information Science (Master's)
- Arts Administration (Master's)
- Information Communication Technology (Bachelor's)

Quality Instruction

Faculty Driven. The initiative will be faculty-driven with sustained and strategic support from the institution for:
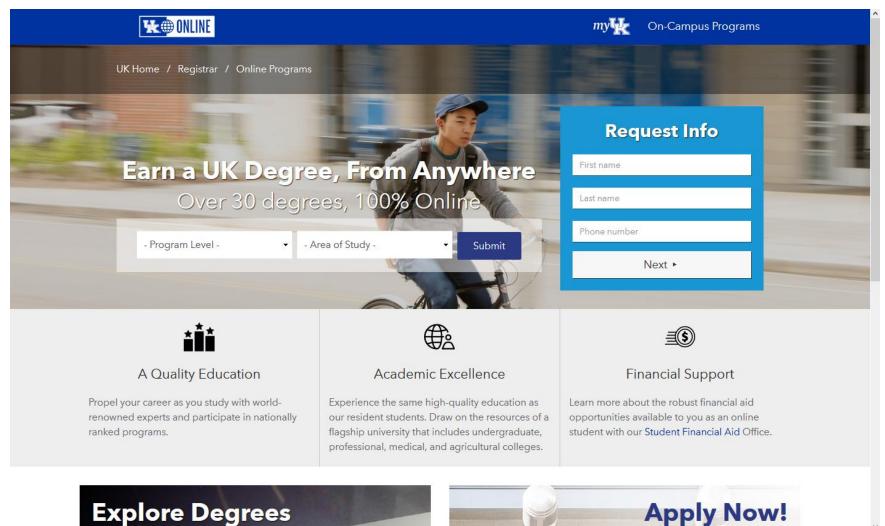
- Faculty development,
- Instructional design,
- Educational technology,
- Media production, and
- Online policy and processes.

Student Centered. In-house, wrap-around services will address the unique needs and success of online students:

- Online enrollment services,
- Advising for online learners,
- Student support services, and
- Library assistance.

Marketing

Innovation

In the University Strategic Plan, we challenge ourselves to generate "new and innovative" curricular offerings and to engage in state-of-the-art teaching.