



**Press Clippings  
June 2016  
Web**

**Title:** Barclaycard US Apprenticeship Program in Delaware Enters Fourth Year\*  
**Author:** Keith L. Rolland, Community Development Advisor  
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## **Barclaycard US Apprenticeship Program in Delaware Enters Fourth Year\***

By Keith L. Rolland, Community Development Advisor

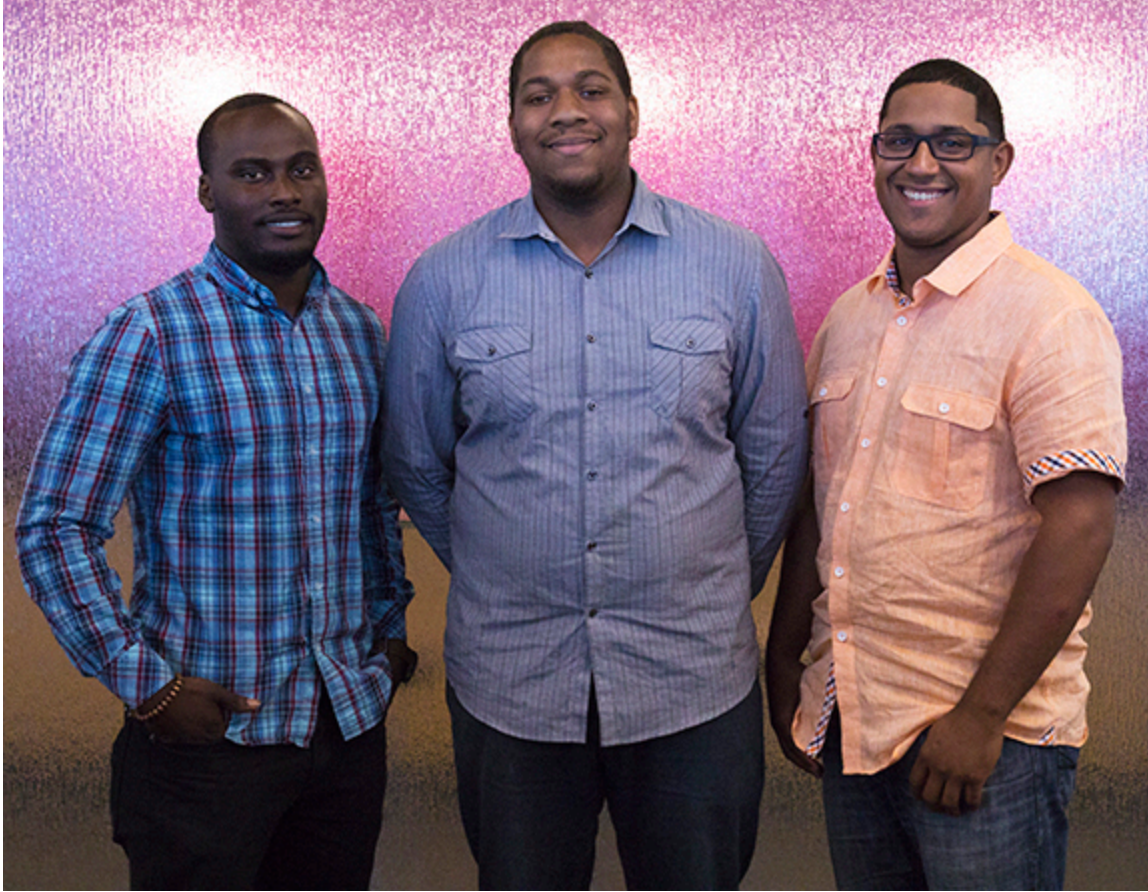
Barclaycard US reports good results with a two-year information technology (IT) apprenticeship program in which it has hired five full-time apprentices a year since 2013. Barclaycard US based its program on an apprenticeship program used by its parent company Barclays Bank in the United Kingdom, and is one of the only banks in the U.S. with an apprenticeship program.

Jocelyn Stewart, director of community investment at Barclaycard US, headquartered in Wilmington, DE, said that the bank seeks apprentices between the ages of 18 and 26 who have an aptitude for IT, a positive attitude, and a strong work ethic, but who lack a bachelor's or associate's degree, which is normally required for IT positions.

Employee retention is an issue with many employers and Barclaycard US started the program in hopes of finding "engaged and loyal employees," Stewart said. "In giving them a chance, we thought that this may be a place that they will call home." Indeed, of the 15 apprentices hired in 2013 to 2015, 14 are still with Barclays (one left to relocate with her family in California). Most graduates of the apprenticeship program are working as analysts and technicians, and one is working as a junior Unix infrastructure engineer.

Barclaycard US, which has about 3,000 employees in the U.S., plans to hire another five apprentices in its Delaware office in the fall of 2016. In addition, it plans to develop a similar apprenticeship program that will start by the end of 2016 at its call center in Henderson, NV.

Barclays Bank Delaware Three apprentices at Barclays Bank Delaware — Prince Yawson, Felton Bruce, and Angel A. Ponce — were interviewed about their experiences in Barclays' apprenticeship program. Bruce said that it was "priceless" and that he would otherwise had been unable to enter the workforce due to a lack of credentials. Ponce learned about the program through the Year Up program at Peirce College in Philadelphia and said that the program was "fun and the work was always changing." Yawson said that it was "a good opportunity to learn and move forward." Bruce and Ponce said they have goals to buy homes in the next few years. All three apprentices are in the process of obtaining IT certifications.



*Three apprentices at Barclays Bank Delaware — Prince Yawson, Felton Bruce, and Angel A. Ponce — were interviewed about their experiences in Barclays' apprenticeship program. Bruce said that it was "priceless" and that he would otherwise had been unable to enter the workforce due to a lack of credentials. Ponce learned about the program through the Year Up program at Peirce College in Philadelphia and said that the program was "fun and the work was always changing." Yawson said that it was "a good opportunity to learn and move forward." Bruce and Ponce said they have goals to buy homes in the next few years. All three apprentices are in the process of obtaining IT certifications. Photo Credit: Jacqueline Quidort. The bank recruits apprentices yearly from partner agencies, such as nonprofit organizations Tech Impact, Wilmington Job Corps, and Year Up, as well as through referrals from current apprentices. Applicants participate in a day-long series of exercises, often in teams, and demonstrate their soft skills, such as communication and teamwork, through a variety of exercises. The day-long event is based on one used by its parent company.*

The apprenticeship program begins with job shadowing for two months at the service desk and in other support functions. The apprentices are paid a starting salary and receive benefits from the time they join the bank and become full-time staff members upon completion of the program. The average starting salary is \$30,000 to \$34,000, Stewart said.

The apprentices start in cohorts, Stewart explained, because "we want to make sure they know each other and have a sense of belonging to a community." A Barclaycard US staff member mentors each apprentice on any work-related and personal issues that may arise, and the bank's community relations team is sometimes enlisted to assist with soft skills. "We have also been successful introducing second-year apprentices to first-year apprentices as a kind of safety net," Stewart said.

Stewart said that the apprentices require a support network because "the benefits and policies in a professional work environment are new to them." For example, staff members help apprentices understand health and 401k benefits and policies.

The program, said Stewart, has also had a broader positive effect on the bank and is "a source of pride" for many employees. She added: "These young adults come in every day ready to learn and prove themselves and are an inspiration to the other colleagues. They provide a fresh perspective and display a grateful attitude, which contributes to a more positive work environment for all employees."

For information, contact Jocelyn Stewart at [JSutton@barclaycardus.com](mailto:JSutton@barclaycardus.com).

\* The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia or the Federal Reserve System.

**Title:** Peirce grads juggle family and attending college

**Author:** Lauren Feuner

**Link:** [http://articles.philly.com/2016-06-14/news/73746049\\_1\\_peirce-college-homework-youngs](http://articles.philly.com/2016-06-14/news/73746049_1_peirce-college-homework-youngs)

**Date:** June 14, 2016

## **Peirce grads juggle family and attending college**

By [Lauren Feuner, Staff Writer](#)

POSTED: JUNE 14, 2016

FOR THE PAST three years, Emma Morando-Young and Anthony Young's Philadelphia home has been doubling as a college dorm.

The dining room table is strewn with books - the result of too many 3 a.m. homework sessions - rather than forks and knives.

On Monday, some 13 years into their marriage, after raising kids and pursuing careers, the Youngs will walk down another aisle - to get college diplomas at the same time. The couple will graduate from Peirce College, a Center City school focused on adult learners. Emma, 42, will receive her bachelor's degree in integrated leadership while her husband, 49, will receive his associate's degree in criminal justice.

And the Youngs aren't stopping there. Next year, Young and his 25-year-old stepdaughter both expect to receive their bachelor's degrees.

The story of the married adult learner is one of shifting schedules, canceling babysitters, lunchtime homework, and family study sessions.

It's a life that Mariya Georgieva, 34, and Stefan Georgiev, 42, know well. The couple will also be graduating Monday, with their 9-month-old son, George, sitting on their laps and with her sister also in the audience.

After working in Peirce's information technology department, Stefan will graduate with a master of science in organizational leadership & management. Mariya will receive her bachelor of science in integrated leadership - the degree she never got to finish after moving from Bulgaria during an exchange program in college.

The couple credits Peirce Fit, a program that allows students to alternate between online and in-person classes at their convenience, with providing them the flexibility to stay in school. When their babysitter canceled just before a class, for example, Mariya was able to stay home with her child and take the session online, rather than fall behind.

The couple said studying leadership in college made them better parents at home.

With a newborn to care for, Mariya said there were times she thought she should just take a break from school. But her partner encouraged her to keep going. "I think that is true leadership, to not let someone or your spouse give up," she said.

Cathy Littlefield, an associate professor of Organizational Leadership and Management at Peirce who has taught both Stefan and Mariya, recalled a time where she had a videoconference with Mariya while Stefan was taking care of the baby in the background. Littlefield said their marriage created a support system that helped in the classroom.

"They were able to empathize with each other so they understood what it meant to have to write a paper and have a deadline," Littlefield said.

For the Youngs, going to school as a family also meant more empathy for their 15-year-old son, Kyron. "We understand [his problems] completely," Emma said. "We wish we didn't have to do our homework either."

And oh, how much homework there is.

Stefan was doing homework the night before his wedding. Emma and Anthony's relatives complain that when they come to visit they bring their laptops to do work. For these hardworking couples, it's just become a part of what they do.

"We say we don't have time, but think about it, we make time for everything else we want to do," Emma said.

Anthony had put off his education after more than 20 years in the military, put off by the idea of being the "old guy" in the classroom.

"It kind of delayed me, but then I figured I better do it now before I get any older," he said, laughing.

The Youngs and Georgievs offered words of encouragement for other potential adult learners to take the leap back into school. Despite the lack of sleep and busy hours, both say it has improved their relationships with each other and made them into better examples for their kids.

"We always had fun, we always laughed together," Emma said, "but now we have this intellectual connection."

**Title:** Cloud, with a chance of savings and 24/7 uptime  
**Author:** Andrew Barbour  
**Link:** <http://www.ecampusnews.com/technologies/cloud-savings-uptime/>  
**Date:** June 28, 2016

## Cloud, with a chance of savings and 24/7 uptime

**BY ANDREW BARBOUR**

June 28th, 2016



In the face of increasing demand for its online services, a Philadelphia college has found improved uptime performance, cost savings—and inexpensive disaster recovery—in the cloud.

A trifecta of needs—cost savings, business continuity, and disaster-recovery—has prompted Peirce College in Philadelphia to migrate much of its infrastructure to the cloud over the past 18 months. The college, which caters primarily to working adult learners, has seen more and more of its students using the school’s online educational services, putting pressure on IT to deliver 24/7 uptime and rapid recovery.

The introduction of Peirce Fit, a flexible study option that allows students to switch between online and on-campus study from week to week, lies behind much of this increase. “If you can take classes at 8 PM on a Wednesday night at home in your sweat pants, you’re going to choose that over being physically in another location at, say, midday during the week,” said Michael Mozeliak, director of IT at Peirce. “Students want to be able to access class whenever and wherever they are. As a result, we’re seeing a little bit more strain on the 24/7 uptime.”

The school also recognized that its infrastructure was dangerously vulnerable in the event of a disaster: The Peirce IT department, which houses the college’s servers, occupies a single building in the center of Philadelphia. “If anything happens to this building, we’re sunk,” said Mozeliak of the situation his team faced prior to the move to the cloud.

## **A Hurricane Decision**

A few years ago, the college did maintain a co-location site in New Jersey to provide redundancy, but it sat only 15 miles from the Philadelphia campus. Hurricane Sandy, which devastated an entire region of New York and New Jersey in 2012, served as a warning that this kind of separation was insufficient. “I think Sandy played a big part in the decision for Peirce to start focusing on disaster recovery more than it had in the past,” said Mozeliak, but he also stressed that co-location sites tend to have their own problems. “A lot of the time, you end up putting yesterday’s technology over there because you don’t have the budget to buy new infrastructure.” This, in turn, can lead to slow performance and other issues.

Now, Peirce has turned to VMware’s vCloud Air Virtual Private Cloud to provide the reliability it needs as well as for disaster recovery. “We’ve been on VMware for nine years, so we’re very familiar with it,” said Mozeliak, noting that he has only a small team to run IT operations on campus. “It’s easy to use. Once the VMware cloud is set up, it requires the same skills we were using in-house to manage the environment on campus.”

Over the past year, the school has moved the school’s student accounts, housed in Active Directory, to VMware’s cloud, as well as some of its SQL services. After that, Mozeliak plans to move some of the college’s web services to the cloud, too. “This way, if anything happens to our physical location in Philadelphia, we’re still available in the cloud using VMware’s Virtual Private Cloud to allow our students to get to class,” he said.

## **Steps to a Broad Plan**

The move is part of a broader migration to the cloud for the school. In the next 18 months or so, the school will abandon its current LMS for another service-based LMS platform, and Peirce already uses Google Apps for Education. On the administrative side, the college began implementation of Salesforce’s cloud-based CRM this month.

“This approach is much, much less expensive,” said Mozeliak. “We don’t have any hardware to buy or maintain—it’s just a subscription.” He’s particularly pleased with the pricing model used by VMware, which gives the school an agreed-upon amount of resources 24/7 that it can use as it sees fit.

“That’s been a really good move for us,” he added. “Some of the other vendors, like Google and Amazon, charge you per CPU cycle. That pricing model is extremely difficult to understand. It took me a long time to figure out our CPU usage on campus; I then tried to translate that usage into a cloud environment to gauge how much it would all cost. It becomes very cloudy.”

Mozeliak is less enamored of the firewall that comes free with the vCloud Air subscription. Peirce had been using Palo Alto Networks firewalls on campus and the VMware equivalent proved to be far less sophisticated. “As soon as we realized how simple the VMware firewall was, we installed Palo Alto’s virtual VM-100 appliances,” said Mozeliak. “Now we have Palo Alto Networks both in the virtual environment and in our campus environment. We know all the data between here and the cloud are



completely secure, and we have 100 percent visibility into the traffic between us and the cloud and between the cloud and the web.”

Mozeliak is far happier with the privacy protections and security of the data stored within the vCloud Air environment, noting that VMware’s storage procedures are HIPAA compliant and accommodate FERPA regulations. “Our data center is in Virginia; our data is always in Virginia,” he said. “On some other platforms, you could be in China today and Japan tomorrow—you’re never really sure where your data is.”

While he emphasizes that privacy and security considerations must be addressed, Mozeliak also advises schools not to let these concerns prevent them from taking advantage of what the cloud has to offer. “We have students all over the United States and in several countries, so we’re a 24/7 shop,” he said. “We need our students to be able to access their classes whenever they want. Uptime and stability are a big deal.”

**Title:** BUSINESS IN BRIEF: The Peanut Bar & Grill participates in ‘Dining to Donate’

**Author:** Donna Rovins, Business Editor

**Link:** <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/business/20160621/business-in-brief-the-peanut-bar-grill-participates-in-dining-to-donate>

**Date:** June 21, 2016

## **BUSINESS IN BRIEF: The Peanut Bar & Grill participates in ‘Dining to Donate’**

POSTED: 06/21/16, 2:00 AM EDT |

[0 COMMENTS](#)



TIM MERRELL

Royersford >> The Peanut Bar & Grill, 301 N. Lewis Road in Royersford, is participating in Dining to Donate — dedicating a portion of the day’s proceeds from each Monday or Tuesday to a local fundraising effort.

“It’s so easy,” said Donna Norris, owner of the Peanut along with her husband Duane Norris. “It could be a school, sports team, church, hospital or individual in need.”

This month, every Monday for lunch, dinner or take-out, proceeds go to the St. Vincent DePaul Society local chapter thru Sacred Heart Church in Royersford and St. Joseph’s Church in Spring City that feed the homeless in the community. Parishioners and

friends that bring in their church bulletin will have a percentage of every check go back to the charity.

In July, the restaurant will support the Spring City Legion Baseball in Royersford.

For more information visit [www.PeanutRofo.com](http://www.PeanutRofo.com) and fill out the contact page.

## MALVERN

Meridian Bank announces staffing addition >> Tim Merrell has joined Meridian Bank as senior vice president of payments. In this role, Merrell will lead Meridian's payments group, which provides customized card payment solutions to business clients. He will also work closely with Meridian's cash management and government banking groups to ensure their continued growth and success.

A graduate of Peirce College in Philadelphia, Merrell has more than 15 years experience with financial institutions, specializing in cash management, government and escrow banking, and merchant services. Prior to joining Meridian, Merrell was a senior vice president with Penn Liberty Bank (now WSFS), as well as senior vice president, director of cash management and government banking at Beneficial Bank.

In addition to being a certified treasury professional, Merrell is a member of various industry associations, including: Association for Financial Professionals, Philadelphia Association for Financial Professionals, Government Finance Officers Association of PA, Electronic Transactions Association, and Merchants Acquirers' Committee. He is also a former director at RSVP of Montgomery County and served on the finance committee at St. Andrew's Church. Merrell lives in Lower Providence Township with his family.

*Send items for Business Briefs to Business Editor Donna Rovins, [drovins@pottsmmerc.com](mailto:drovins@pottsmmerc.com). Get business news on Twitter @MercBiz*

**Title:** College Choice Releases Its 2016 Ranking of the Best Online Bachelor's in Accounting  
**Author:** Christian Amondson  
**Link:** <https://sg.finance.yahoo.com/news/college-choice-releases-2016-ranking-123000693.html>  
**Date:** June 20, 2016

## College Choice Releases Its 2016 Ranking of the Best Online Bachelor's in Accounting



PRNewswire Press Release: College Choice - Mon, Jun 20, 2016 8:30 PM SGT

EUGENE, Ore., June 20, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- College Choice (<http://www.collegechoice.net/>), an independent college search and rankings website, has published a ranking of the top fifty online bachelor's degrees in accounting in the United States (<http://www.collegechoice.net/rankings/best-online-accounting-schools-2016/>).

Auburn University, Colorado State University, Old Dominion University, Indiana State University, and University of Maryland University occupy the top five spots on the list, which is based on factors such as cost of attendance, each program's reputation in its field, and return on investment. Other schools include Missouri Southern State University, University of Massachusetts, Penn State University, Southern Illinois University, and Florida International University.

Robert Hand, lead editor for the ranking, explains College Choice's ranking further. "All businesses, regardless of type or scale, have one thing in common by definition: they all have to manage finances. For students who are looking for a field that is both popular and highly in demand in both the business world and beyond, accounting studies are a smart choice. For those already in a career but looking to move to the field of accounting or to take the next step in their accounting career, we have provided the best online options, which provide the flexibility of schedule to fit into your already busy life."

The complete ranking, listed in alphabetical order, is as follows:

American Public University System, Charles Town, WV  
Auburn University, Auburn, AL  
Baker College Flint, Flint, MI  
Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE  
Brandman University, Irvine, CA  
Brenau University, Gainesville, GA  
Brescia University, Owensboro, KY  
Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA  
California Baptist University, Riverside, CA  
Chadron State College, Chadron, NE  
City University of Seattle, Seattle, WA  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Columbia College, Columbia, MO  
Concordia University St. Paul, St. Paul, MN  
Culver-Stockton College, Canton, MO  
DeVry University, Phoenix, AZ  
Florida International University, Miami, FL  
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL  
Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC  
Granite State University, Rochester, NH  
Grantham University, Lenexa, KS  
Herzing University, Milwaukee, WI  
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN  
Jones International University, Centennial, CO  
Keystone College, La Plume, PA  
Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO  
New England College, Henniker, NH  
Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
Northwest Christian University, Eugene, OR  
Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA  
Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA  
Penn State University, University Park, PA  
Peirce College, Philadelphia, PA  
Post University, Waterbury, CT  
Rasmussen College, Maitland, FL  
Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA  
Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Standish, ME  
Saint Leo University, St. Leo, FL  
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Terre Haute, IN  
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL  
Southern New Hampshire University, Hooksett, NH  
The state University of New York, New York, NY  
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN  
Thomas Edison State College, Trenton, NJ  
University of Maryland University College, Baltimore, MD  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN  
University of Minnesota Crookston, Crookston, MN  
Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT

College Choice is a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources dedicated to helping students and their families find the right college. The site publishes rankings and reviews that make finding the best colleges for different interests easier and more fun, as well as resources to help students get into, pay for, and thrive at the college of their choice.

Contact:  
Christian Amondson  
Managing Editor, College Choice  
Web: <http://collegechoice.net>

Email

Phone: (541) 255-3801

To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit:<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/college-choice-releases-its-2016-ranking-of-the-best-online-bachelors-in-accounting-300286513.html>

@YahooSG on Twitter

**Title:** AffordableSchools.net Releases Its Affordability Ranking of Online Bachelor's-Level Healthcare Administration and Management Degrees

**Author:** Raj Kumar Dash

**Link:** <https://sg.finance.yahoo.com/news/affordableschools-net-releases-affordability-ranking-123000140.html>

**Date:** June 29, 2016

## **AffordableSchools.net Releases Its Affordability Ranking of Online Bachelor's-Level Healthcare Administration and Management Degrees**



PRNewswire Press Release: AffordableSchools.net – Wed, Jun 29, 2016 8:30 PM SGT

SUNNYVALE, Calif., June 29, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- AffordableSchools.net (<http://affordableschools.net>) -- a college rankings site centering on unique and affordable academic programs -- announced the release of its newest college rankings list, featuring 20 Affordable Online Bachelor's Degrees in Healthcare Administration and Management (<http://affordableschools.net/20-affordable-online-bachelors-degrees-healthcare-administration-management/>).

The top three schools on this AffordableSchools.net's rankings list are: (1) South Texas College (McAllen, Texas); (2) Brigham Young University-Idaho (Rexburg, Idaho); (3) University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, Louisiana). The complete list of all 20 ranked U.S. colleges and universities, in alphabetical order, comprises:

- \* Baker College (Flint, Michigan)
- \* Brigham Young University-Idaho (Rexburg, Idaho)
- \* Central Christian College of Kansas (McPherson, Kansas)
- \* Cleary University (Howell, Michigan)
- \* Columbia College (Columbia, Missouri)
- \* Columbia Southern University (Orange Beach, Alabama)
- \* East Carolina University (Greenville, North Carolina)
- \* Jackson State University (Jackson, Mississippi)
- \* Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, Colorado)
- \* Montana State University-Billings (Billings, Montana)
- \* National American University-Ellsworth AFB Extension (Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota)
- \* Pacific College (Costa Mesa, California)
- \* Park University (Parkville, Missouri)
- \* Peirce College (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- \* South Texas College (McAllen, Texas)
- \* State College of Florida-Manatee-Sarasota (Bradenton, Florida)
- \* SUNY College of Technology at Canton (Canton, New York)
- \* University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, Louisiana)
- \* University of Minnesota-Crookston (Crookston, Minnesota)
- \* Weber State University (Ogden, Utah)

"The overall health care industry is growing rapidly, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimating around 4M new jobs of all types, from 2012-2022 alone," said Raj

Dash, the article's lead researcher. "Administrative and management roles are part of that healthcare industry job growth estimate, and specialized skills will be in demand.

"Of course, the healthcare industry has many professionals who are already working, thanks to an associate's degree and specialized certification. A natural career path is to complete a bachelor's degree and any additional certification. An online degree makes that more convenient, so we've focused on online bachelor's of healthcare administration or management degrees offering either 100% fully online programs, or in a hybrid format that combines some on-campus presence. The article also references relevant online certificate programs in healthcare administration and management.

"The article includes a list of potential occupations, as well as statistical summary of the ranked colleges, along with NCES-based data tables and a collection of charts to make comparison easier."

Rankings for this list were compiled with data from NCES, a bureau of the Dept. of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/>). We first queried for institutions that grant bachelor's degrees in Healthcare Administration, Healthcare Management or both, on a distance education basis, then applied our standard data filters, sorted by increasing average annual net price, and manually selected the 20 most affordable colleges with active online degree programs (BA, BS, etc.) in these topics. Similar topical rankings will be published at AffordableSchools (<http://affordableschools.net>) -- a college search and rankings site with a focus on affordable colleges and programs -- on a regular basis.

Raj Kumar Dash ([Email](#))

Managing Editor

Skype phone #: 310-929-7240 (voicemail only)

Contact form: <http://affordableschools.net/contact/>

To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/affordableschoolsnet-releases-its-affordability-ranking-of-online-bachelors-level-healthcare-administration-and-management-degrees-300291483.html>

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