



# Online Education: Breaking Down Barriers for Women

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Kate Scarpena, EdD.

Asst. Chair Humanities & Social Sciences

School of General Education



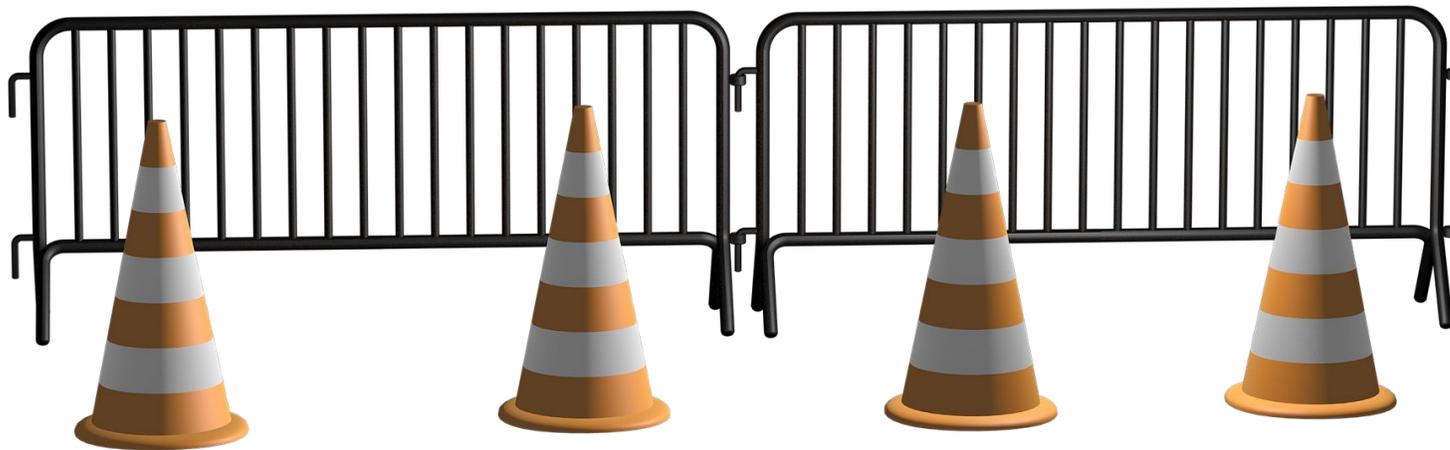
# Abstract

This presentation will examine the role of online education in removing the barriers that prevent women from entering, and ultimately successfully completing their degree programs. This presentation will also include solutions and recommendations for practice designed to support online programs in creating expanded access and opportunity for women, particularly those impacted by underrepresentation, in terms of entry into and completion thereof. While often still viewed as a disruptive technology, online education creates access and opportunity, particularly for women (Altman, et.al, 2018; Christensen, 1997; Smith, 2014; Yamagata-Lynch, 2015). Vital questions to be examined include: Do online programs mitigate access barriers specifically for women? What are the implications of access-based college choice decisions for women? How can increased access to online programs shrink the gap for women in fields where they are underrepresented?

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this presentation you will be able to:

- 1) Identify barriers to entry into college that impact women
- 2) Evaluate online education in terms of access for women



# Essential Questions

- Do online programs mitigate access barriers specifically for women?
- What are the implications of access-based college choice decisions for women?
- How can increased access to online programs shrink the gap for women in fields where they are underrepresented?

# The Issues

## Extant

- Multiple Role Stress: A Problem of Access and Persistence
- Gender Issues Impact Academic Integration
- Under-representation: In STEM fields and in terms of race/class

## Emerging

- Access-based Decision Making
- Context: Setting Changes, Challenges Do Not

# Solutions and Recommendations

Areas of opportunity for online programs:

- A focus on fit: institutional and programmatic
- Expansion of types of programs offered
- Expansion of mentoring
- Increased transparency during enrollment process
- Development of stronger support systems

# References

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