

THE DEGREE

What is the \$10,000 bachelor's degree?

The \$10,000 bachelor's degree is a great option for a motivated, independent learner to earn a bachelor's degree in liberal studies in a cost-effective manner, primarily through earning credit-by-exam.

What degrees can be completed for \$10,000?

There are two degrees you can earn under the \$10,000 degree program.

1. BA in Liberal Studies with area of focus in Psychology or Sociology or
2. BS in Liberal Studies (BSL) with areas of focus in Administrative/Management Studies or Health Professions, and Psychology or Sociology.

A BSL student can earn two areas of focus (Admin/Mgt Studies OR Health Professions, and Psychology OR Sociology). Because there is some overlap in exams used toward the Psychology and Sociology areas of focus, you must choose one or the other.

Is there a capstone requirement? If yes, is this completed online or by exam?

Yes, there is a capstone requirement and it is an online course.

What requirements need to be completed by taking online courses?

The capstone course must be completed online at Excelsior College. The information literacy requirement may be completed online with Excelsior College's course INL 102, or by transferring credit for an approved course from another institution.

Can the degree be completed entirely by exam?

No. INL 102 and the capstone course are not available as exams.

How does this degree compare to the current BA/BSL degrees Excelsior offers?

The expected learning outcomes and program outcomes are identical to the BA/BSL degree completed using a combination of transfer credit, online course credit, and exam-based credit.

What resources will help me prepare for the exams?

Free OpenCourseware (OCW) offerings or open educational resources (OER) are available online to help you prepare for the exams. OCW/OER refers to open digital publications of high-quality college- and university-level educational materials. These materials are usually organized as lessons or complete courses, and often include course planning materials and evaluation tools as well as thematic content. In addition, content guides for exams can be downloaded from Excelsior's Web site for free, and textbooks and practice exams can be purchased.

What open educational resources (OER) are available as part of this degree and what steps are in place to ensure the currency and rigor of the OER offerings?

Excelsior faculty will recommend OER for each Excelsior College® Examination (ECE) and UExcel® exam selected for the BA/BSL degree program. OER will be selected to provide learning resources for each component of the ECE or UExcel exam content outline. The OER recommendations will be reviewed over time to ensure their currency and rigor.

Are advising services included as part of this program?

Yes, advising services are included in the \$10,000 program price.

I am currently enrolled in a degree program at Excelsior College. Can I transfer into the \$10,000 option?

No. Students enrolled prior to the start of the \$10,000 degree do not have the option to transfer into it.

Are there any limits on the number of exams and courses I can take during a given time period as part of this degree program?

You will be limited to four open ECE registrations at any one time, and you may register for additional exams when you complete an ECE. You have six months after registering for an ECE or UExcel exam to schedule a testing appointment with Pearson VUE and complete the test. You'll have four attempts to obtain a passing grade on an ECE or UExcel exam. If you fail an ECE or UExcel four times, you must seek another mechanism to earn credit for that component of the degree requirement (i.e., use transfer credit, take an Excelsior course, or take a different ECE or UExcel exam).

As an enrolled undergraduate student, you may be registered for no more than 16 credit hours of Excelsior College instructional courses at any given time.

Can a person with 0 credits complete the degree for \$10,000?

Yes. If you have 0 credits, you would need to take the INL 102 course, the capstone course, and approximately 36 exams to earn a degree. All requirements must be completed within five years in order to be eligible for the guaranteed price.

What if I transfer in credit or take Excelsior College courses instead of exams to complete the degree requirements?

Costs for transfer credit or credits from sources outside of the 116 exam-based credits and 4 course-based credits will not count toward the \$10,000 cost of the degree.

What learning and academic support services do I get when I enroll?

You're not alone as you study at a distance to prepare for exams or take online courses. Excelsior College offers a multitude of resources and services including:

- Career Center— A complete career resource with options for career counseling sessions.
- CCS 100 EC Student Experience— A free, self-paced online orientation course designed to educate you about the resources, services, and offices available to help you succeed in your educational goals.
- Disability Services— An office where you can get help, guidance, and apply for accommodations online.
- Exam Resources— These include content guides, study guides, and more.
- Excelsior College Library— A full-service Library for full-text electronic articles, books, and personalized research assistance from a librarian.
- Free Tutoring— Online tutoring in multiple subjects is available where you can interact with live tutors and get help with class assignments. Popular uses include math tutoring and a 24-hour review period for papers. This service also can be used to prepare for exams.
- Free Writing Resources— A suite of services available to help you become a better writer, including a Grammar Check Tool, an Avoiding Plagiarism Tutorial, and an Online Writing Lab.
- MyExcelsior Community— An area to interact socially and academically online with fellow students and faculty. Includes Academic Discussion Boards, a Study Buddy Finder, Book Exchange, and scheduled chats with Excelsior College faculty and staff.
- Student Success Guide— Here you can prepare for online success with self-assessment tools, study strategies, and identification of your learning style.
- Video Tutorials— A training resource to help you learn commonly used software applications.

TIME FRAME

How long will it take to complete the degree?

Assuming you start with 0 credits, you could earn the degree within five years of enrolling. If you already have transfer credit, you could complete the program in a shorter period of time and at a lower cost.

What happens if it takes me more than five years to complete the degree?

If it takes you more than five years, you can continue to work toward the completion of your degree. However, all Excelsior College fees, including the cost of Excelsior College® Examinations and UExcel® examinations, will be charged at the current rate with no discounts or scholarships applied. Thus, the \$10,000 cap will be removed for periods exceeding five years.

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COSTS AND FINANCING

Can I use financial aid toward the \$10,000 degree?

Financial aid is available in the forms of Excelsior scholarship aid, private loans, and payment plans. Income-eligible New York State residents may qualify for tuition assistance through the TAP and APTS (Aid to Part-Time Students) programs.

Because the \$10,000 degree calls for only 4 credits to be completed through coursework (capstone course and INL 102 Information Literacy), federal Title IV financial aid is not available.

Does \$10,000 cover all fees and requirements, such as the enrollment fee, student service annual fee, and graduation fee?

Yes. The \$10,000 price covers the enrollment fee, student service annual fee, graduation fee, exam fees, and course fees and is guaranteed if you enroll in this program for a period of five consecutive years from the date of enrollment.

What costs are NOT included in the \$10,000 price?

Costs for administrative fees (e.g., payment plans, late registration payments), textbooks, repeat exams and courses, practice exams, and optional learning resources are not included in the \$10,000 price. The costs of courses and other sources of transfer credit pursued as a substitution for the applicable examinations or INL 102 do not count toward the cost of obtaining the \$10,000 degree.

Are books included in the total cost?

No. The average cost of books is \$135 per exam, not including any optional study materials or services. Your actual costs may vary.

How can I pay for my degree?

You can use a credit card, check, or most forms of financial aid (not federal student aid) to cover the costs of the degree. Payment plans are available to you just as they are for our current students. If the costs associated with the eligible fees for this degree increase during the five years of initial enrollment, you will pay the rate in effect for the particular fiscal year and will receive a waiver or institutional scholarship once the costs for the degree exceed \$10,000.

How do I start?

If you're interested, contact an admissions counselor toll free at 877-542-4133 or visit www.10kdegree.excelsior.edu.



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