



Glenn Reynolds On Online College Educations

Reynolds [writes](#) at washingtonexaminer.com:

Another opportunity exists in alternative methods of certifying knowledge. A college diploma serves as a basic signifier of its holder's basic competence, but with costs running well into the six figures, it's an awfully expensive credential.

MIT/Harvard will start certifying online students, and that may be just the beginning. The Cato Institute's Andrew Coulson suggests that people should accumulate knowledge in life, then build a portfolio that will directly demonstrate their knowledge to future employers. He calls it *savoir faire*: (Literally: "know how to do.")

I think that's a really nice idea but find that people are often unable to assess for themselves whether another person is qualified and like to fall back on credentialism.