Greetings and thank you for downloading this report.
Whether you are a professional who is working to take your career to the next level - or a student who is just starting out - my goal is to introduce you to an exciting possibility for advancing yourself in an innovative and forward thinking way!

I’m Jay Cross, founder of The Do-It-Yourself Degree. Every day, I help students who are frustrated with the traditional college system find outside-the-box ways to graduate faster, spend less money and make the career moves they dream of.

My specialty is degree acceleration and my strategies have been featured in the national media as well as top college and career blogs.

How did I get here? Truthfully, I never expected to be in the position I am today!

A few years ago I was just a normal college student, going to class at the University of Connecticut and working toward graduation. Until they completely dropped the ball and out of nowhere (when I had gotten ¾ of the way through and needed only a dozen more courses) stopped offering those exact courses.

Worst of all, they could not explain WHY. The school basically told me to “hurry up and wait” until they decided to offer those classes again.

Well, I’m not a “hurry up and wait” kind of guy. I couldn’t control how quickly UConn got its act together, but I could make it my sworn mission to graduate faster.

And that’s exactly what I did!

After sifting through all the scams, diploma mills and half-baked ideas floating around out there, I finally discovered a powerful and economical strategy for dramatically accelerating your college education.

That Strategy is Known as “Testing Out”.

Instead of taking slow and costly classes, you:

1. Teach college subjects to yourself.
2. Take INEXPENSIVE exams to prove you know the subject matter.
3. Earn credit as soon as you pass.

Discovering the test out strategy was a dream come true. After intensely researching how it all works, I proceeded to teach myself and test out of all the remaining courses UConn wasn’t offering - in under 6 months!

And even though I was traveling a lot for work at this time, I was still able to complete my bachelor’s degree in business, without skipping a beat.
This is because there are testing centers nationwide, so I was able to sit for exams in Connecticut (my home state), Philadelphia (where I often traveled for work), and Chattanooga (where I visited friends).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits Earned:</th>
<th>33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Costs:</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion Time:</td>
<td>&lt; 6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*I saved $30,000 and graduated 2 years early by testing out - instead of having to take (and pay for) more classes!*

After graduating, I really started to think about how an entire degree could be earned this way...

That’s why I started DIY Degree: to help students like me accelerate their degrees from the very beginning and graduate even faster than I did.

**“Is Degree Acceleration Right For You?”**

If you’re excited about my DIY Degree strategy and eager to learn more, you’re going to get the whole scoop in this ebook. But before I go further, I want to be clear:

**Degree Acceleration is NOT for Everybody.**

I’m NOT saying you need to be an academic superstar. Trust me, I wasn’t. (Most people are surprised to learn that I dropped out of high school.) In fact, if you were never a good student in the classroom, the DIY approach might just be your best college path of all.

What I AM saying is that you need to be self-motivated. The students who thrive with DIY Degree are the kinds of people who don’t need alarm clocks, bosses or deadlines to keep their lives in order. They work because they want to, set their own goals and push themselves across the finish line.

- I’m talking about the precocious teenager or 20-something who teaches themselves for fun.
- I’m talking about the kids who know the outdated “factory-line” college system is definitely not for them.
- I’m talking about people who hustle their way into a career, run circles around their co-workers, but can’t advance without the “piece of paper” their employer insists on.

**THESE are the people who grab DIY Degree by the Horns.**

My students don’t merely “get an education.” They TAKE IT by developing an ownership mentality over the entire process.

**Why? Because that’s what it takes to do this.**

When you trade professors and classrooms for hard work and self-directed learning, it puts your future into your own hands.

**Before you read any further, please ask yourself: are YOU this kind of person?**

I didn’t write this ebook as intellectual entertainment. This is a serious program for students who are ready to work hard so that they can achieve extraordinary results.

If you are such a person (or you’re willing to become one) I encourage you to read on...
Which Majors Are The Easiest To Accelerate?

The next question students ask once they wrap their minds around degree acceleration is “which majors can I do this for?”

The majors that are most test out friendly are: business, psychology, computer science and accounting.

Business is the absolute best fit. If you are the kind of person who is seeking whatever degree you can earn the fastest, this is the one for you. If you are an entrepreneur, manager or businessperson who wants to check that empty “degree” box on your resume, business is your best bet, too.

The majors that are NOT well suited for testing out include: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), music, physical therapy, and other hands-on disciplines.

Unfortunately, these majors are simply poor fits because of the heavy face-to-face instruction or lab work they involve.

If you are only interested in these majors, DIY Degree probably isn’t the right fit for you.

If you are interested in a major that’s DIY-friendly, please read on...

Which Colleges Are The Most Degree Acceleration Friendly?

There’s one important piece of my story I haven’t told you.

I had to change schools before I could graduate with my DIY Degree strategy.

You see, most universities DO allow students to test out of courses, albeit with strict limits. For example, a school might say that “students may earn no more than 30 credits via examination.”

Unfortunately, my school (The University of Connecticut) is one of the few stingy institutions that allow NO testing out whatsoever.

So I ditched UConn and searched for legitimate, accredited colleges with more flexible policies. Soon I discovered Excelsior College, a distance learning (aka “online”) school for independent learners.

Excelsior is one of a small number of specialized schools that allow unlimited exam-credit. Their motto is “what you learn matters more than how you learned it” and it’s why I refer my DIY Degree students there.

I know you may be thinking, "Excelsior isn't a brand-name college" - and that's true, but I chose to ignore this objection for 3 important reasons:

- Big name universities are overrated. I didn't know exactly how much oomph the word "UConn" would add to my resume, but I did know how much a massive student loan would handcuff me early in my career. No, thanks!

- Degrees are about “checking the box”. Nowadays, most employers just want to see that you have SOME kind of degree. Your skills and work history matter far more than where you graduated, and as Ivy League grads will tell you, not even a prestigious degree carries you forever. It might get you in the door, but after a few years, you stop being “that Harvard guy” - because people will ultimately judge you by your performance.
**Results speak for themselves.** I was willing to stake my future on a less “prestigious” degree because the results validated what I was doing. Thanks to this strategy, I reap the rewards of my post-college earnings (rather than a bank!). And before long, the people who asked "why are you going there" started saying "I wish I didn't have any debt, either!"

The chart below compares the tuition students pay for traditional degree programs with the **dramatically reduced price** I paid by following my DIY Degree strategy...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Annual Tuition/Fees</th>
<th>Per Class</th>
<th>Per Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private, 4-Year</td>
<td>$27,293</td>
<td>$3,411</td>
<td>$1,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public, 4-Year</td>
<td>$7,505</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIY Degree</td>
<td>$3,000-$4,500</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you still have reservations about “online colleges” like Excelsior, I can understand how you feel. When I was considering whether or not to go, I had dreams of attending Harvard Business School for an MBA.

I couldn’t risk getting a bachelor’s degree that Harvard wouldn’t take seriously.

**So, what finally convinced me that a degree from Excelsior would be respected?**

Simple.

I contacted the school and discovered that Excelsior grads routinely got admitted to elite masters programs across the country, including Harvard, Yale, Cornell and others.

Now ask yourself this: What is your #1 college priority?

1. Are you determined to graduate from a big name school - even if it takes years and a small fortune to do so?

OR...

2. Are you open to graduating from a less famous (**but still accredited/respected**) school for a **fraction of the time and cost**?

There’s no “right” answer here, it’s up to you - but successful **DIY Degree** students choose option Number Two!

**The Steps To Building An Accelerated Degree Plan**

If you’ve read this far, you now have a stronger understanding of degree acceleration than 99% of students.

You’re probably wondering: “how do I actually turn this DIY Degree strategy into a plan I can follow to graduation?”

All you have to do is:

1. Pick a major for your degree
2. Find out which subjects that major requires you to pass
3. Select exams that will satisfy those requirements
4. Pass those exams one by one until you graduate

Constructing a DIY Degree roadmap sounds pretty simple, and it is - but ONLY if you understand the process and follow the correct steps (and in the correct order).
If you build your roadmap incorrectly (as I’ve seen many students do) you could wind up taking exams that don’t count, squandering money you never needed to spend or chasing your tail with time-and-money wasting mistakes.

**Remember:** I’m not talking theory. I successfully did this myself before I began teaching others!

Some of the answers I needed to build my degree-roadmap were already available online, but I quickly encountered lots of “little details” that still needed clarification.

- Which exams should I take?
- What other types of exams are there besides the commonly-known CLEP tests?
- What makes those other types of exams different from CLEP?
- Which order should I take my exams in?
- Who do I call?
- How do I enroll?
- How do I study thoroughly enough to teach entire college subjects to myself?
- What subjects/credits are required for my degree?
- How do I actually schedule my exams?
- How do I know for sure that those exams are going to satisfy MY degree requirements?
- Are there ways to earn credits quickly/cheaply OTHER than exams? (answer: yes)
- Once I pass an exam, how do I notify my school and make sure those credits get there?
- What if I fail an exam? Can I re-take it? Should I retake it? If so, when? If not, how do I earn credit for that subject?
- What’s the difference between upper and lower-level credit?
- How do I get upper-level credit? Most CLEP exams are for lower-level credit only.
- Which exams are graded and which are pass/fail and how does that affect my GPA?
- What about college courses I’ve already taken? Will the school I enroll in count those credits toward my degree? How many? Which ones?
- How do I track my progress?
- How long will all of this take?

I personally love doing research - so I gleefully wrestled ALL of these answers from every source imaginable, spending sleepless nights learning how some maverick shaved 3 months off his degree schedule - or got an edge on the tests I was studying for.

I found it intellectually challenging to treat my degree like an experiment - and searched for ways to optimize it.

**But I knew that students like you don’t have the time to do this.**

You just want step-by-step answers, so you can graduate quickly and focus on what matters to you.

You could spend the time doing all of this yourself - it’s certainly possible, but do you really want to invest the year (or more) of time needed to figure this out - when you could be spending that time passing exams instead?

Wouldn’t you rather have an expert do all of the pain-in-the-ass research for you - and just follow a winning plan that is PROVEN to work? That’s what I provide for my students!
When You Invest in My DIY Degree System, It’s Like Buying “A Roadmap To Rapid-Graduation”

All of the tedious details and questions you just read about are already figured out for you.

Everything is clearly explained in a step-by-step roadmap that takes you from here to graduation day with unparalleled speed and minimal confusion.

If you’re really serious about hanging a degree on your wall, don’t “trial-and-error” your way through. Take the next step by investing in the proven system that students like you have already followed to the finish line.

Now that you know that you definitely can earn your degree (without waiting for years or spending a fortune) the choice is up to you.

Sincerely,

Jay P. Cross

Founder, Do-It-Yourself Degree