So you’ve tried online learning and its working out great for you since you enrolled with UWA Online. Shopping on the Internet? Hardly a day goes by without at least a look if not a purchase. So what about online dating?

According to Health.com, prospective couples are as likely now to meet via email or another virtual source as they are through family and friends. Statistics show that 20 years ago less than 1 percent of Americans met a partner via a personal ad or matchmaking service. By 2009 that number had increased to 22 percent in heterosexual couples and 61 percent in same-sex couples.

You have seen the commercials on TV and heard them on satellite radio. Your soul mate is out there in cyber space just waiting for you to match your profiles on any number of matchmaking sites. Online profiles ... now there’s the rub. Just how reliable are they? There’s no Turnitin.com or Remote Proctor for online dating profiles. Like much of the virtual world, almost anything goes. After all, it was on the Internet so it must be true. Right?

We all know it just doesn’t work that way, and if even it did, some would suggest that these profiles could bend a persons expectations and outlook to the point of not being able to even remotely build any kind of lasting relationship.

Amanda Gardner of Health.com says that online daters have an over reliance on online dating profiles, indicating the information isn’t always useful in identifying a partner and that email, text or instant messaging can exacerbate the problem. Online companion shoppers often read too much into emails or online conversations partly because they are in “shopping mode” while reviewing profiles.

Online education is awesome, especially at UWA, and you may even get a great deal on boots at Zappos, but online dating! Bad dates don’t usually come with a refund policy.
Can We Answer Your Online Questions?

Following are questions recently received via Webmaster by the University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs advisor staff. What follows are their answers to those questions.

Q: I currently hold a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. I am interested in a degree in school counseling to serve in a middle school or secondary school in Maine. Would your program be appropriate for me?
A: We offer a M.Ed. School Counseling completely online. While we do have reciprocity with Maine, we encourage you to verify that your state department would still accept our recommendation for certification.

Q: Could you provide me with information on the M.Ed. for Elementary Education and the M.Ed. for School Counseling?
A: The M.Ed. Elementary Education is a 34 hour program, while the M.Ed. School Counseling consists of 36 hours. There is no internship required for the Elementary Education program. The School Counseling program requires a 600 hour internship.

Q: Could you provide me with the general requirements for the online Nursing program?
A: Unfortunately, the Nursing program is not an online offering at UWA. You must come to campus to complete this degree.

Q: I am really leaning toward a master’s degree in physical education. However, I’m not really interested in the secondary level. Is there a degree for elementary PE only, or is it all K-12? I currently have a degree in elementary education, so I would like to focus more on the elementary level of physical education.
A: Our M.Ed. Physical Education degree program does cover K-12, and there is not a way to obtain an elementary only Physical Education degree. However, in order to apply for your M.Ed. Physical Education program you must first hold a valid bachelor’s level teaching certificate in Physical Education. With your teaching certificate in Elementary Education, you would be eligible for an M.Ed. in Elementary Education, an M.Ed. in School Counseling, or an M.Ed. in Library Media.

Q: Do you require prospective graduate students to take the GRE or MAT? If so, what is the passing score required for admittance?
A: Yes, either the GRE or the MAT is required. You need to take either exam and have the score reported and on file.

Q: If enrolled in the master’s program would I be able to take no hours one session and six the next and still be considered full time for the TEACH grant?
A: The program is done on your time. If need be, you can sit out a session, but be mindful that if you sit out for a year or more you will have to reapply. You can take up to six hours in each of the fall and spring sessions and you can take up to nine hours in the summer session. We do not have any affiliation with the TEACH Grant.

Q: I currently have a master’s degree in professional counseling and I would like to know the best route for me to become a school counselor.
A: UWA Online offers two programs that can be of help to you. We offer an M.Ed. School Counseling and an MSCE in Guidance and Counseling. The M.Ed. is for certified teachers who would like to further their education to become a school counselor. In some states students are able to use our MSCE Guidance and Counseling degree for certification. Please check with us and your state department of education to confirm whether you teach in one of those states.

Q: Can you please send me information on the school counseling program? I am currently teaching in Louisiana. I was wondering how long is the program and how much is the total price? Also, do you have to take the GRE, and how are the courses offered (every spring, summer, fall or you can register and start at anytime)?
A: We have five eight-week sessions and you can start when you are ready. Courses are $442 a credit hour. Yes, you do need to take the GRE or the MAT.
Social Media Top 10

Fast Company magazine, one of the world’s leading progressive media business brands, recently released its Social Media Top 10.

Facebook: Earned $1 billion in profits on $3.7 billion in 2011 revenue, and its long-awaited IPO will be the biggest in tech-company history (three times as much as Google’s).

LinkedIn: Last March, the 100 million-member professional networking site launched LinkedIn Today, a social news reader whose algorithm culls from what people on your LinkedIn social graph are sharing to only deliver the most relevant, interesting stories for you.

Tumblr: Its 30 million blogs now get 13 billion page views per month, compared to 2 billion at the beginning of 2011.

Disqus: The comments service now powers 1.2 million websites, 73% of those with third-party comment systems (including Fast Company) that generate 700 million unique visitors a month.

UberMedia: Twitter shelled out $40 million to acquire TweetDeck in a defensive move to prevent UberMedia, who had made an earlier offer, from controlling 17% of all tweets.

American Express: Last March, AmEx announced Serve, a PayPal-like mobile platform that lets users send and store money, without funneling it through banks.

Waze: For its simple, brilliant application of crowd sourcing: providing turn-by-turn GPS navigation for fellow drivers.

Yammer: For becoming the Facebook of business. The enterprise social network tripled users and sales in 2011, and now powers the professional social scene at more than 200,000 companies.

Formspring: Its 28 million users have logged more than 4 billion answers since it started in 2009. In November, Formspring introduced an interests feature that allows users to follow specific topics, which paves the way for brands to purchase AdSense-style targeted ads.

Intel: For being a tech giant who knows how to play the social media game. In June, Intel launched a Facebook app called The Museum of Me, which visualizes your social life (it has more than 86,000 “Likes” to date).

Online Faculty Spotlight

Erica King, Ed.D. is an Assistant Professor of Special Education. Dr. King earned a B.A. at South Alabama, M.Ed. at Alabama State and her Ed.D. at Nova Southeastern. She is teaching Intro to Special Education (SE 500), Literature Strategies K-6 (SE 606) and Literature Strategies 6-12 (SE 607) this session.

Chad Nesmith, Ph.D., is an Adjunct Instructor for Counseling Education Department and is teaching Two classes of Techniques of Counseling (SC 541) this session. Dr. Nesmith earned his B.S. at North Alabama, two M.A. degrees and his Ph.D. at Alabama.

Erica Tanner, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education. She teaches Educational Stats (ED 506), Literature for Children & Young Adults (EE 506) and Learning Theory in Elementary Mathematics and Science (EE 622). She earned her B.A. at Huntingdon and her M.S. and Ph.D. at South Alabama.
University of West Alabama deans of Online Programs, the College of Education/School of Graduate Studies and the College of Business were recent guests of host Larry Jacobs on Education Talk Radio.

Dr. Martha Hocutt, Dr. Kathy Chandler and Dr. Ken Tucker were interviewed for about 45 minutes and covered all aspects of what UWA has to offer in online programming for both the graduate and undergraduate student.

UWA Online’s scholarship program for active military members was also featured on the program, and plans are underway for a second show to delve deeper into UWA Online’s commitment to active military service members.

To access the archive of the show go to http://tinyurl.com/7kcrm4x.