

Online Learning Opportunities

In an effort to assist you in finding your own training opportunities, we are happy to share these no cost or low cost online training sites. Please feel free to share any others that you know about so that we can continue to share this information with our employees.

CLASS CENTRAL

Personalizes your class search by asking you from the get-go what you're interested in learning and from whom. Then, it pairs you with options from various forums to find what best suits your needs.



On its website, saylor.org offers free, college-level courses, which are selected as typical courses in high enrollment majors at traditional U.S. colleges. The course catalog is designed to be as open as possible, with all content accessible without needing to register or log in to the website.



The GCF LearnFree.org program offers self-paced tutorials in technology, Microsoft Office, work and career, reading, math, and everyday life. All tutorials can be accessed with no registration required, but users can also create a free GCF LearnFree.org account to track their learning history and create transcripts of completed tutorials. Tutorials use video, sound, art, storytelling, and text.



Udemy serves as a platform that allows instructors to build online courses on topics of their choosing. Using Udemy's course development tools, they upload video, PowerPoint presentations, PDFs, audio, zip files, and live classes to create courses. Instructors can also engage and interact with users via online discussion boards. Courses are offered across a breadth of categories, including business and entrepreneurship, academics, the arts, health and fitness, language, music, and technology. Udemy offers paid and free courses, depending on the instructor.



Gale Courses are offered for free via the Montgomery City-County Public Library's website. Gale Courses offer a wide range of highly interactive, instructor led courses that you can take entirely online. As a library card holder in good standing, you are entitled to these courses at no cost. Courses run for six weeks and new sessions begin every month.



Coursera offers all its courses "accessible for free"; some courses have the option to pay a fee to join the "Signature Track." Students on the Signature Track receive verified certificates, appropriate for employment purposes. These students authenticate their course submissions by sending webcam photos and having their typing pattern analyzed. Many specializations are fee-based, but even these courses can be audited for free, with the restriction that one cannot give the quizzes for that course. The website provides courses in a variety of areas, including humanities, medicine, biology, social sciences, mathematics, business, computer science, digital marketing and data science. Each course includes short video lectures on different topics and assignments to be submitted, usually on a weekly basis. Coursera courses last approximately four to ten weeks, with one to two hours of video lectures a week. These courses provide quizzes, weekly exercises, peer-graded assignments, and sometimes a final project or exam. Courses are provided on-demand, in which case users can take their time in completing the course with all of the material available at once. Coursera also offers "specializations" - sets of courses that help increase understanding of a certain topic.



ALISON currently offers over courses across certificate and diploma level in ten languages. The certificate level courses necessitate 1–2 hours study with the more rigorous diploma level offerings requiring 9–11 hours study on the part of the learner. ALISON note on their website that 'there is no time limit on completing a course, so learners can study entirely at their own pace' and that some of the courses may take up to 20 hours to complete.



EdX hosts online university-level courses in a wide range of disciplines to a worldwide student body, including some courses at no charge. EdX courses consist of weekly learning sequences. Each learning sequence is composed of short videos interspersed with interactive learning exercises, where students can immediately practice the concepts from the videos. The courses often include tutorial videos that are similar to small on-campus discussion groups, an online textbook, and an online discussion forum where students can post and review questions and comments to each other and teaching assistants.