

Free Online Courses from Universities & Other Professional Forums

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An African educator once noted, money can be lost or stolen, buildings can be burned and equipment broken, but what you commit to the mind you keep forever. Furthermore, you can share and use it continuously without it ever being exhausted.

A high quality education doesn't have to come at a high cost or require you to physically attend the university or institution. In fact, it's possible to take classes from elite US Universities like Yale, MIT, and Tufts without ever submitting an application or paying tuition. I've compiled the most reputable online classes from the web.

Top 10 US Universities with Free Online Courses

#1 UC Berkeley

Ranked as the #1 public school in the United States, Berkeley offers podcasts and webcasts of amazing professors lecturing. Each course has an RSS feed so you can track each new lecture. For printable assignments and notes you can check the professors homepage, which is usually given in the first lecture or google his name. Even though the notes, homework and tests are not directly printed in the Berkeley website, as they are in MIT and other courseware sites, it's not a problem to find them. I personally tried to use it for John Wawrzynek's machine structures class and the nutrition courses. **Visit:** [Berkeley Webcasts / Berkeley RSS Feeds / UC Berkeley on Google Video](#)

Getting The Most From Berkeley Webcasts: Berkeley Videos are in .rm format and real player can be a pain. It asks you to register real player, spawns on startup. Instead, download a free program called media player classic with the real alternative plugin. Media player classic is fully featured and much easier on the computers memory. The real alternative plugin download seems to come with an older version of media player classic, so updating media classic is optional. **Download:** [Real Alternative Plugin / Media Player Classic For Windows XP/2000 / Media Player Classic For Windows 98/ME](#)

#2 MIT Open Courseware

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is ranked 7th nationally in the United States. Many of the courses do not have video lectures. Instead, they have notes in PDF format along with tests and homework.

Visit: [MIT OpenCourseware Course Listings / MIT OpenCourseware Online Textbooks](#)

Visit: [MIT Courses With Video Lectures / MITWorld Public Videos / MIT Podcast: ZigZag](#)

Getting the Most Out of MIT OCW: Since MIT OCW is heavily based on opening PDF files it's recommended you download FoxIt Reader, a freeware PDF reader that's many times faster than the bulky and slow adobe acrobat. Also [Ghost Script](#) in combination with [GSView](#) is able to read pdfs, and post scripts files. **Download:** [Foxit Reader](#)

#3 Carnegie Mellon's Open Learning Initiative

Carnegie Mellon is a private research university ranked equal with Berkeley. Though registration is not required they have a registered user mode that allows you to keep track of your scores and progress. Currently 11 courses are offered. The courses are basically ebooks in a frame-based easy to use navigation system with an occasional powerful interactive Java Applet for practice and testing.

Visit: [Carnegie Mellon OLI](#)

#4 Utah State, OpenCourseWare

Utah State has a very familiar structure as MIT OCW with large available course listing.

Visit: [Utah State Course Listings](#)

#5 Tufts, OpenCourseWare

Tufts University in Massachusetts has a very familiar structure as MIT OCW with large available course listing. **Visit:** [Tufts State Course Listings](#)

#6 Openlearn

European site called Open University's OpenLearn supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Contains many online course and a different style content management system. I was unable to find anything interactive or any streaming media, though it does have forums for each course. Appears to function mostly as a large educational ebook library. **Visit:** [OpenLearn](#)

#7 Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health

Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health offers health based lecture notes and assignments. You'll find the JHSPH OCW website uses the same familiar navigation structure as MIT OCW. The notes are formatted much more cleanly but I haven't seen exams, and their search bar seems to be broken. **Visit:** [JHSPH OCW Course Listings / Johns Hopkins University Podcasts](#)

#8 Connexions

CNX.org is an open-content library of course materials developed by Rice University. It has a huge database of content which is very useful for people who know what they're looking for. It does have ebook style higher level courses you can choose from. **Visit:** [Connexions / Connexions Course List](#)

#9 Sophia

Initiative is led by Foothill College which contains *8 free courses*. **Visit:** [Sofia](#)

#10 University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering

Contains posted lectures and classnotes. Some of the courses even contain [video lectures](#). **Visit:** <http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/course-webs.html>

Other Reputable Online Learning Universities & Centers:

I've selected more business and program management focused programs or courses, but there are many other available from these universities.

London School of Business and Finance <http://www.facebook.com/LSBFGlobalMBA>

(Master's in Business Management) This internationally renowned business school is *offering its entire online MBA program for free*. Anyone can sign up for their Facebook application to gain access to all of the course content from the program, including hundreds of hours of videos, lessons, assignments and educational resources. Students who would like to earn the degree can apply to LSBF and pay tuition retroactively at the end.

MIT Sloan School of Management <http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/sloan-school-of-management>

(Undergraduate & Graduate Courses) MIT Sloan is a world-class business school long renowned for thought leadership and the ability to successfully partner theory and practice. MIT OpenCourseWare might be the next best thing to getting an MIT education for free. Through this free online publication you can [find bachelor-level business courses](#), as well as master-level courses, offered by MIT's Sloan School of Management. The curriculum includes lecture notes, videos, labs demonstrations and more. No registration is required and more than 50 courses are available.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>

Free lecture notes, exams, and videos from MIT. No registration required.

University of California Irvine <http://learn.uci.edu/cms>

The University of California Irvine offers several free business courses in English and Spanish through their OpenCourseWare site. Courses are broken down into lessons, and include optional reading lists for students who want to dig deeper into the course subjects.

Fundamentals of Business Analysis
Introduction to Project Management
Training and Human Resources Development

Stanford <http://www.stanford.edu/online/courses>

Stanford currently offers free online courses via Coursera and iTunes U. Coursera courses are offered in real-time and are highly interactive while the iTunes U courses are for the most part self-paced. Currently, there are eleven free online courses from the School of Engineering are taught by regular Stanford faculty and are highly interactive. Enrollees do not get Stanford credit for their work, but they do receive a statement of accomplishment if they successfully complete a course. The classes are delivered via the Coursera platform. Many others on diverse topics are available using the iTunes platform.

Yale <http://oyc.yale.edu>

Open Yale Courses provides free and open access to a selection of introductory courses taught by distinguished teachers and scholars at Yale University. The aim of the project is to expand access to educational materials for all who wish to learn. All lectures were recorded in the Yale College classroom and are available in video, audio, and text transcript formats. Registration is not required. **No course credit, degree, or certificates available.**

Notre Dame

Offers open access to course materials in 23 different areas of study including: Arabic and Middle East Studies, Civil Engineering, Poverty Studies. Intended as a study aid and resource for students and faculty. Uses the OpenCourseware platform. Registration is not required. **No course credit, degree, or certificates available.**

The Open University <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk>

Over 600 free online courses from introductory to postgraduate level, each takes between 1 and 50 hours to study. Complete activities to assess your progress and compare with sample answers.

Education Portal http://education-portal.com/article_directory/Free_Online_Courses_and_Education.html

Earn the Lowest-Cost college credit from free courses using the OpenCourseware system. Most free courses don't lead to college credit. Education Portal Academy's courses do. Their system works through free video lessons, then you take a quiz. Then you pass an exam and earn real college credits.

Business

Accounting Courses
Business Courses
Entrepreneurship Courses
Finance Courses
Marketing Courses

Technology

Computer Courses
Computer Networking Courses
Engineering Courses
Electrical Engineering Courses
Game Design Courses
Graphic Design Courses
Linux Courses
Programming Courses
Technology Courses
Unix Courses
Web Design Courses
Software Tutorials
Apple Computer Tutorials

Science

Astronomy Courses
Biology Courses
Environmental Management Courses
General Science Courses
Health Science Courses
Math Courses
Natural Science Courses

Liberal Arts

Adult Literacy Courses
Foreign Language Courses
Greek Philosophy Courses
History Courses
Liberal Studies Courses
Literature Courses
Music Courses
Teacher Education Courses
Writing Courses
Unabridged Books Online

Small Business & Professional Development

U.S. Small Business Administration www.sba.gov

The Small Business Administration has one of the best selections of business courses on the web. Topics include everything from starting a business and business management to government contracting and international trade. Most courses take only 30 minutes to complete.

Alison Free Online Courses & Certification <http://alison.com>

Free online courses with certificates for basic and essential workplace skills.

Lifelong Learning & World Culture

OpenCulture <http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

Free online courses from the world's leading universities. This collection includes over 500 free courses in the liberal arts and sciences. Download these audio & video courses straight to your computer or mp3 player. These cover all subjects. I've selected below from "Humanities & Social Sciences" to balance out the academic and professional sites above, and because I strongly believe everyone would benefit and be enriched by greater studies in this area. But, I am an anthropologist, renaissance man admired and poet...so that's clearly my bias!

Archaeology

Hannibal - iTunes – Patrick Hunt, Stanford

Architecture

Architecture Studio: Building in Landscapes (Video) – iTunes – Jan Wampler, MIT

Roman Architecture - YouTube – iTunes Audio – iTunes Video - Download Course – Diana E. E. Kleiner, Yale

Art & Art History

Aesthetics & Philosophy of Art – iTunes – James Grant, Oxford University

Foundations of American Cyber-Culture – YouTube – UC Berkeley

Introduction to Visual Thinking – YouTube – UC Berkeley

Photography – Web – iTunes – Jonathan Worth & Matt Johnston at Coventry University

SmARThistory Video Lectures – Vimeo – Beth Harris, MoMA & Steven Zucker, Pratt Institute

The Elements of Drawing – iTunes – Stephen Farthing, Oxford University

Classics & Classical World

Ancient and Medieval Philosophy - iTunes Video - Web Video – David O'Connor, Notre Dame

Ancient Greek History - YouTube - iTunes Audio - iTunes Video - Download Course – Donald Kagan, Yale

Ancient Philosophy - iTunes - David Ebrey, UC Berkeley

Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love - iTunes Video - Web Video – Professor David O'Connor, Notre Dame

The Heroic and the Anti-Heroic in Classical Greek Civilization – Multiple Formats – Gregory Nagy, Harvard

Virgil's Aeneid: Anatomy of a Classic - iTunes – Susanna Braund, Stanford University

BBC Adult Learning Online Courses <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/onlinecourses>

BBC offers a range of online courses that you can study at your own pace. Select from these course subjects: Basic Skills, English, Food and Catering, Gardening, Health, History, Information Technology, Languages, Maths, Media Studies, Science

Wikiversity <http://en.wikibooks.org>

From the creators of Wikipedia, Wikiversity describes itself as being a community seeking to create and use learning materials and activities containing everything from a detailed guide to learning French to Organic Chemistry and Nanotechnology.

Archive.org Education www.archive.org

Online Education Database

<http://oedb.org/library/beginning-online-learning/200-free-online-classes-to-learn-anything/#.UCj4j5g723U>