

HOW A MOOC WORKS

While not every “massively open online course” is the same, typical formats contain the following elements:



VIDEO LECTURES

Students log in to their lessons, which can either be a live lecture (delivered via Skype, BigBlueButton, or another videoconferencing software) or pre-recorded. Lessons can last from 10 minutes to two hours.



STUDY GROUPS

Some MOOCs rely more on community interaction and peer-to-peer networking than instructor-directed lessons. These formats typically require students to communicate and discuss the lesson plan via an electronic message board, learning-management software, or even social media, like Facebook.



AFTER THE LESSON

Students can receive homework, quizzes, and suggested online resources via a learning-management system, like Blackboard or Canvas.



EXAMS

Some MOOC providers, like Udacity, require students to take proctored final exams at testing centers, while others, like edX or Coursera, rely on online quizzes and homework grades for assessment