



Dear Students,

This month's topic is **'MOOCs.'** MOOC stands for Massive Open Online Courses. They are courses available over the Internet without charge, often led by professors from esteemed universities around the world.

Why?

MOOCs can provide you with the opportunity to learn new skills and further develop technical skills that can prepare you for employment. They are self-paced, easily accessible and free. All you need is time, motivation and a decent internet connection.

How?

There are a number of different MOOC providers and a huge variety of online classes.

Read this e-newsletter to learn about:

- MOOC facts and figures;
- types of MOOC classes offered;
- MOOC providers; and
- student perspectives on MOOCs.

"I love to throw myself into situations where I don't understand everything yet. That way I learn so much. Sometimes I fail, and sometimes I succeed. But the goal is to reemerge at the other end, doing something good."

-Sebastian Thrun, Chairman and Co-Founder, Udacity

Facts and Figures

Have you taken a MOOC?

If yes, you are one of the 58 million students who took a course in 2016. Of those, 23 million registered for the first time.

If no, what are you waiting for? According to [Class Central](#), there were 6850 courses offered in 2016 from 700+ universities.

Indians are the second largest pool of students, after Americans. About 8% of Coursera students and 12% of edX students are Indians.

Finding a MOOC

The top 5 MOOC providers in 2016 were:

1. Coursera, with 23 million users and 1700+ active courses
2. edX, with 10 million users and 1300 courses
3. XuetangX, a Chinese provider with 6 million users and 300+ classes
4. FutureLearn, with 5.3 million users and 480 courses
5. Udacity, with 4 million users

There are also options for paid programs that offer a credential to help students find jobs in their field, such as edX's [Micromasters](#) and Udacity's [Nanodegree](#).

"The online credential, the online certificate is very different from an on campus certificate. You can think of them as a rising tide that's going to lift all boats whether for students worldwide or on our campuses."

**-Anant Agarwal, CEO of edX and
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT**

What Do You Want to Learn?

MOOC [course distribution by subject](#) for all providers in 2016 was:

1. Business & Management (19.3%)
2. Computer Science and Programming (17.4%)
3. Science (10.4%)
4. Social Sciences (9.82%)
5. Humanities (9.82%)
6. Education & Teaching (9.26%)
7. Health & Medicine (7.68%)
8. Art & Design (6.47%)
9. Engineering (6.32%)
10. Mathematics (3.64%)

The [most popular Coursera classes](#) from 2016 worldwide were:

1. Learning How to Learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough subjects - University of California, San Diego
2. Machine Learning - Stanford University
3. Programming for Everybody (Getting Started with Python) - University of Michigan
4. R Programming - Johns Hopkins University
5. Speak English Professionally: In Person, Online & On the Phone - George Institute of

- Technology
6. Grammar and Punctuation - University of California, Irvine
 7. Seeing Through Photographs - The Museum of Modern Art
 8. The Data Scientist's Toolbox - John Hopkins University
 9. Buddhism and Modern Psychology - Princeton University
 10. Mastering Data Analysis in Excel - Duke University

The [most popular edX courses](#) in 2016 worldwide were:

1. Introduction to Computer Science - HarvardX
2. Analyzing and Visualizing Data with Excel - Microsoft
3. TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide - ETSx
4. Introduction to Computer Science and Programming Using Python - MITx
5. The Science of Everyday Thinking - UQx
6. Introduction to Java Programming - Part 1 - HKUSTx
7. Introduction to Linux - LinuxFoundationX
8. Introduction to Project Management - AdelaideX
9. Conversational English Skills - TsinghuaX
10. The Science of Happiness - UC BerkeleyX

The [top Coursera classes in India](#) were:

1. How to Build Mobile Applications for Android devices - University of Maryland
2. Python Programming - University of Michigan
3. Python Programming - Rice University
4. Machine Learning - Stanford University

Eight of the top ten most popular courses in India were highly technical.

The Big Picture

How can MOOCs change education? MOOC leaders have a vision to revolutionize education with a system that encourages:

- active learning
- self-pacing
- instant feedback
- gamification
- interactive methods

Learn more by watching these TED talks:

- Anant Agarwal: [Why massive open online courses \(still\) matter](#)
- Peter Norvig: [The 100,000 student classroom](#)
- Daphne Koller: [What we're learning from online education](#)

"It's opportunity, wherever you may be."

-MOOC Student, featured on Coursera website

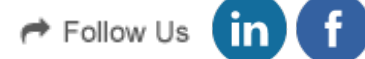
What Students Say

Listen to MOOC students share their learning experiences:

- [Coursera Learner Stories](#)
- [edX Learner Stories](#)

Share your MOOC stories with other FFE students on the [FFE Facebook](#) group.

- Have you taken a useful course? What courses would you recommend?
- Are you looking for advice on which courses to take?
- Which provider do you like and why?



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