

OPTIONS FOR FREE & CHEAP CLASSES, EBOOKS, AND MORE!

In your service year and in your careers afterwards, it's always a good idea to brush up on your skills or learn something new. Being a continuous learner will help you increase your ability to achieve success. Instead of passing up on a new role or opportunity, be confident that you can learn new skills and build your capacity. Who knows, it might even lead to a new career! The list below are some recommendations for free or inexpensive online classes and learning resources to help you keep you sharp!

Note: We are not endorsing these websites or providers, we just tried to do some basic research as a starting place for you! Please research more on your own and talk to trusted advisors when making education and career plans.

ACADEMIC COURSES:

COURSERA.ORG

Classes covering a wide variety of topics are taught by instructors from well known universities and educational institutions. You can audit some courses for free, or pay to earn a certificate.

Cost: Some free, others are \$29-\$99.

EDX.ORG

edX partners with well-known schools to offer classes in Computer Science, Language, Engineering, and more. You can audit most courses for free or pay to take for a verified certificate. Levels range from freshman courses to Masters and MicroMasters.

Cost: Some free, others are \$25-\$99.

UDEMY.COM

Unlike the previous options, courses at Udemy are created and posted from professionals in the field, not necessarily professions. Course range from IT and Marketing to Pet Care and Yoga.

Cost: Classes range in cost, but you can often take your first courses for \$10.99.

CLASSCENTRAL.COM

Class Central allows you to search through top massive open online courses (MOOC) providers at once, making it an easy way to see tons of available courses for topics or from universities that you are interested in.

Cost: Free, though redirects to websites that may have a cost

ACADEMICEARTH.ORG

Academic Earth is a database of information about online classes and programs for many areas of study. You can't earn credits, but all of the content is free! You can see syllabus and course readings from classes at top universities.

Cost: Free

ALISON.COM

Alison has courses covering lots of topics, and everything is free access. You can pay a subscription for an ad-free version and pay to receive a certificate for courses you complete.

Cost: Free (or pay for ad-free versions or to receive a certificate)

LINKEDIN.COM/LEARNING

LinkedIn Learning links classes directly to your profile and are organized by skills and industries. It combines industry-leading content from Lynda.com with personalized course recommendations based on insights from LinkedIn's network.

Cost: Free trial month and then \$29.99/month or \$24.99/month with a year subscription

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

There are a ton of places to start learning coding for free online. Codecademy is a popular choice, as are coding classes in the academic sites we listed about. You can check out this article for a specific list of coding class options.

SERVICEPLUSTECH.ORG

If you are interested in coding, check out Service Year + Tech! It's a program specifically designed for service year corps members and alums to develop essential technology skills, discover pathways into tech careers, and leverage technology to solve society's most pressing challenges. Plus, it's completely free.

CAREER AND LIFESTYLE SKILLS

GETYOUEDGE.ORG

Edge exists to provide young people with engaging, impactful customer service training that creates a solid foundation from which to launch a career. These trainings are all available on any device, for free, to flexibly support job attainment, career advancement, and personal development.

Cost: Free

SKILLSHARE.COM

Skillshare offers short sessions (usually 45 min to 1.5 hours) to learn a new skill in the areas of Creativity, Business, Technology, Lifestyle, and more.

Cost: One month free; Unlimited access for \$15/month or \$99/year.

KHANACADEMY.ORG

Khan Academy has all free classes that follow traditional K-12 curriculums as well as test prep for college and grad standardized tests, career exploration, personal finance, and more. If you need a refresher, start here!

Cost: Free

+ACUMEN.ORG

PlusAcumen has courses that intend to support change makers all across the world. There are free and paid options in storytelling, social entrepreneurship, leadership, and more! Some classes are intended to be taken as a group, which could be a great way for your team to improve your skills together.

Cost: Free and paid options

GCFLEARNFREE.ORG

This site offers free classes to brush up on your digital skills with Microsoft Office programs, Google Drive, and other basics of tech.

Cost: Free

(Also, make sure to check out the sites in the "Academic" section, as many have career and lifestyle courses too!)

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

TED.COM

TED (which, fun fact, stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design) has tons of amazing lectures that are 18 minutes or less. Watch some when you want to get inspired or learn something new!

Cost: Free

KANOPY.COM

Kanopy lets you stream thoughtful entertainment to any device with no fees and no commercials - all you need is a library card! There is an amazing range of blockbusters, independent films, documentaries, and even a kid-safe section.

Cost: Free

UNPLUGTHETV.COM

This random video generator pops up interesting videos in all types of subjects. It may be almost like watching TV, but you might learn something new!

Cost: Free

EBOOKS & AUDIOBOOKS

LIBBYAPP.COM (the new app from Overdrive)

Did you know that you can download ebooks from your local library?! Libby is a lifesaving app that lets you get tons of popular new titles to your ereader for FREE! Sometimes there is a waitlist for a book, but that beats \$12 or more per title, amirite? Also, if Libby doesn't work for you, you can check out the original OverDrive site.

Cost: Free

LIBRIVOX.ORG

Librivox has free audiobooks of many titles that are in the public domain, aka published before 1923. You might not find the latest bestseller, but you can brush up on your classics!

Cost: Free

GUTENBERG.ORG

Like Librivox, Project Gutenberg provides access to titles that are in the public domain, though this site focuses on ebooks and downloadable formats. This site is curated by volunteers that are passions about access to literature!

Cost: Free, but they do accept donations!

BARTLEBY.COM

Bartleby has thousands of e-textbooks available for just \$4.99 a month. When you think of how much your last textbook cost you, it might be worth seeing if you can access any reading you need here!

Cost: \$4.99/month

PODCASTS

There are tons of podcast on a variety of content, but if you are looking for some learning on the good, [check out this list to start you out!](#)

DO YOU KNOW OF MORE FREE OR CHEAP OPTIONS FOR LEARNING? LET US KNOW!

Check out more resources to #ThriveInService