

EDTC 816 – Advanced Methods for Building Online Communities
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Assessment 1
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Webliography:

My topics of interest include student success in online education as part of overall student success. I am also interested in it from the learning analytics perspective. That's why the list of online communities presented in this document is related to either one of those topics.

Koofers <https://www.koofers.com/> is the information sharing community created for college students. Its objective is to help students with the course content in most (if not all) subject areas and provide study materials from past semesters, online library for previous exams and study materials, rankings on courses and instructors, and connections to potential employees. It is free for all students and faculty at colleges and universities worldwide. It is a thriving community with now over one million registered users. Students find it extremely effective at providing the services they need.

Study Buddy Groups from Mooclab https://www.mooclab.club/groups/categories/study-buddy-groups.5/?order=view_count has similar objectives of being the online student companion. It is meant to provide a collaborative and supportive environment and help to build confidence in learning the material and passing an exam. It encourages its users to share information and learn more from others. Any registered user can create their Study Buddy Group. The groups could be Open (available to anyone to join) or Closed (only accessible by invitation). It appears that Closed groups are used more often to create a private community dedicated to the topic. Most Open groups don't seem to be as viable.

GoConqr <https://www.goconqr.com/en/info/about-us/> is a multi-disciplinary social learning platform with its active community. It is available for free by registration and is targeted to the areas of interest. It provides students (and faculty) with a variety of learning tools. Anyone can join it as a student, instructor or company. This is a thriving online community with over 5.5 million users who created over 11 million resources.

Kahoot! <https://kahoot.com/> is yet another example of a thriving community, dedicated to “making learning fun.” It provides a game-based platform for the social learning environment. It is available for free or for a fee (depending on the plan) and used worldwide in all types of learning environments. Since its inception in 2013, over 70 million monthly users contributed to over 60 million Kahoot! games. Its learning platform is available in many languages and is claimed to be used in all countries (<https://kahoot.com/company/>)

Blended and Online Learning Community Group by EDUCAUSE

<https://www.educause.edu/community/blended-and-online-learning-community-group> is dedicated to providing a web-based platform for exchanging ideas, information, tips, and best practices on all area of online and blended learning. The topics include but not limited to methods and policies, quality control, professional development, structure, staffing, and management of support services and learning management systems. The group is geared at administrators, directors and/or coordinators of blended and online learning programs. It meets annually at the EDUCAUSE conference and continues the collaboration throughout the year. It is unclear how many users are participating in the Blended and Online Learning Community Group.

The Student Success Analytics (SSA) Practitioners Community Group (CG) by EDUCAUSE <https://www.educause.edu/community/student-success-analytics-community-group> is dedicated to providing a professional forum to educational institutions and organizations, focused on planning or implementing analytics and initiatives to improve student success. While there are no requirements for membership, the goal of the forum is to exchange ideas and best practices among participants with the intent of applicability and plans to scale. The variety of analytic approaches are considered in all areas of the student’s higher ed experience, with the biggest focus on collaboration and practice sharing. The number of participants in The Student Success Analytics Practitioners Community Group is unknown.

The Slack Channel used for active collaboration among the members of SSA CG group <https://educause-ssa-cg.slack.com/messages/CBPP508P7/>. The channel was created less than a year ago, in July 2018 and has 83 members from several countries representing a diverse population of colleges and universities. It is used as an active communication channel among the members of the community.

The California State University Student Success Analytics Certificate program <http://dashboard.csuprojects.org/ssa/certificate-program/members.html> is a community-based learning environment aimed to provide the University faculty, staff, and administrators with the Best Practice strategies to understand and contribute to student success. It includes the curriculum and uses a variety of built-in tools such as discussion forums, Dashboards, readings, videos and presentations. Since this community is private and accessible to the members of the California State University educational system, the number of its members is unknown. The program started in Spring 2018.

The Learning Analytics Google Group <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/learninganalytics> is a publicly available community of the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SOLAR). It is available for anyone to read. To be able to post, one must join the group. Since its inception in February 2014, the group has discussed nine hundred fifteen topics. It is unclear how many members does this group include, but it seems to be viable among the participants of the community.

Moodle Learning Analytics Working Group <https://moodle.org/course/view.php?id=17233§ion=2> provides synchronous and asynchronous modes for collaboration and contribution. Any member of the Moodle.org can join this learning community. Every fourth Tuesday of the month at 14:00 UTC, the working group meets via a Web Conference to discuss project updates and other items on the agenda. The group is relatively young but appears to be organized and viable.

Online Learning Consortium <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/join/> offers several levels of membership. The Community level is free and is available to anyone interested in eLearning. The benefits of community membership include complimentary access to the journal *Online Learning*, subscription to newsletters and online offers to online webinars. Community members can participate in a collaborative network, get access to the published research materials, take advantage of online professional development opportunities and, if interested, become a blogger or a facilitator of the online discussion. It was not clear how many members does Online Learning Consortium have.