

Free/Low-Cost Education and Training Options

Finding affordable educational and training options can be challenging, but there are several accessible resources that can help you learn and grow without breaking the bank. Here's a list of low-cost and free educational opportunities for you to explore:

❑ EdX

- Provides access to over 3,000 free online courses from 140 institutions worldwide.
- Offers certificates and MicroMasters programs.
- Website: <https://www.edx.org/>

❑ Coursera

- Offers around 2,000 free courses from over 200 leading universities and organizations.
- Provides certificates and degree programs at affordable costs.
- Website: <https://www.coursera.org/>

❑ TED Talks

- Offers short, powerful talks on a wide range of topics in multiple languages.
- Website: <https://www.ted.com/talks>

❑ Udemy

- Provides various affordable courses on topics ranging from business to personal development.
- Offers frequent discounts and promotions.
- Free access is available with an MCPL account and may be available through other public library accounts.
- Website: <https://www.udemy.com/>

❑ LinkedIn Learning

- Offers thousands of courses taught by industry experts on software tools, business skills, and more.
- Free access is available with an MCPL account and may be available through other public library accounts.
- Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/>

- ❑ **Brookings Institute**
 - Hosts events featuring policy experts and world leaders discussing policy choices.
 - Offers valuable insights into global and domestic policy issues.
 - Website: <https://www.brookings.edu/events/>
- ❑ **Eventbrite**
 - Lists local conferences, workshops, and events, many of which are free or low-cost.
 - Great for networking and learning opportunities.
 - Website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

Additional Ideas for Learning to Explore

- ❑ **Podcasts and Audio Learning:** Listen to podcasts covering a wide range of subjects, from academic topics to personal development and industry trends found on platforms such as Apple, Spotify, and Google. Examples include "The Tim Ferriss Show" for productivity insights or "Stuff You Should Know" for fascinating facts across various fields.
- ❑ **Open Educational Resources (OER):** Access free educational materials like textbooks, lectures, and assignments on platforms such as OpenStax for textbooks or Khan Academy for interactive learning resources.
- ❑ **E-Libraries and Digital Archives:** Explore academic journals, research papers, and historical documents through digital libraries and archives. Examples include JSTOR for scholarly articles or the Internet Archive for a vast collection of digitized materials.
- ❑ **Peer Learning and Study Groups:** Join or create study groups to collaborate on learning projects and discuss complex concepts. Platforms like Discord or Slack can facilitate online study groups, while local libraries or community centers often host in-person groups.

These education and training opportunities offer flexible learning options that cater to different learning styles and schedules. They can significantly enhance your skills, knowledge, and career prospects, making continuous learning accessible and engaging.