Free Online Courses for Adult Basic Skills Learners

There are many free courses now for online learners. In this Web Scan column I include some that may be suitable for adult basic skills (including English language learning) programs. Many adult basic skills programs now offer blended (integration of face-to-face and online) learning. Some of these courses could be the online component.

1. Peer2Peer University

Peer2Peer University **https://www.p2pu.org/en/** helps libraries to organize blended learning study groups called Learning Circles for community adults. Peer2Peer University offers a free facilitator guide for organizing these.

2. Blended Learning for the Adult Education Classroom

I have written a free online guide for adult basic skills educators that shows how to organize blended learning, provides many examples of what adult basic skills educators are doing with blended learning, and offers a long appendix of mostly free resources. See **http://www.passged.com/educators/blended-learning.php.** Perhaps some of these free online courses could help, too.

Reviewed by

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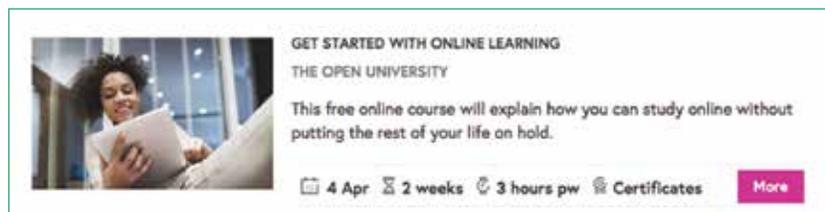
3. Alison
https://alison.com/

Free online courses including diploma courses; digital literacy and IT skills, personal development and soft skills, languages, school curriculum, safety and compliance, health literacy; and financial and economic literacy.

4. FutureLearn

https://www.futurelearn.com/

Free online Open University courses offered by leading universities and cultural institutions from around the world. Categories of courses include business and management, creative arts and media, health and psychology, history, languages and cultures, law, literature, nature and environment, politics, STEM(science, math, and technology), sport and leisure, and teaching. Courses are delivered a step at a time, and are accessible on mobile devices and desktops.

5. GCF Learn Free

http://www.gcflearnfree.org/

Free online courses and other free learning resources. Currently available classes, as of early 2016 include Microsoft Word, Excel, Excel Formulas, PowerPoint, and Access. Other learning resource categories include technology, reading, math, everyday life, work and career, and mobile apps, among others.

6. Khan Academy

https://www.khanacademy.org/

Free online classes in math, science, computer programming, history, art, economics, and more.

7. Digitallearn.org

http://digitallearn.org/learn

Free, short, online, video-based instruction in English and Spanish on this Public Library Association and Institute of Museum and Library Services-sponsored website include a variety of technology and computer usage, work readiness, and social media lessons.

8. USA Learns

http://www.usalearns.org/

This free video and print-based English language learning course can be used by independent learners on their own or by teachers who can enroll classes of students. It can be used on a desktop or laptop computer and has been recently (late 2015) optimized for smartphones and other portable digital devices.

David J. Rosen is an education consultant in the areas of adult education, distance education and technology.