

MOOCs Demystified – Practicalities & Possibilities of MOOC Curriculum at PolyU & Victoria University



Peter Duffy

Victoria University, Australia &

Eric Tsui

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Learning no longer needs to be confined to a group or location (Source: Terry Anderson, 2011)



“Travelling to a university to attend all of your classes”



The first MOOC... back in 2011

Stanford University Artificial Intelligence course – 160k students from 195 countries signed up

UDACITY Course Catalog Sign In Sign Up

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

in partnership with **STANFORD ENGINEERING**

The instructors

Sebastian Thrun
Sebastian Thrun is a Research Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, a Google Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the German Academy of Sciences. Thrun is best known for his research in robotics and machine learning.

Peter Norvig
Peter Norvig is Director of Research at Google. He is also a Fellow of the Association for Artificial Intelligence and the Association for Computing Machinery. He is the author of the popular textbook *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach*.

UDACITY
Intermediate

INSTRUCTORS
Sebastian Thrun
Peter Norvig

[Take the Class](#)

Class Summary
The objective of this class is to teach you modern AI. You will learn about the basic techniques and tricks of the trade. We also aspire to excite you about the field of AI.

What Should I Know?
Some of the topics in Introduction to Artificial Intelligence will build on probability theory and linear algebra. You should have understanding of probability theory comparable to that of our STAT210C Introduction to Statistics class.

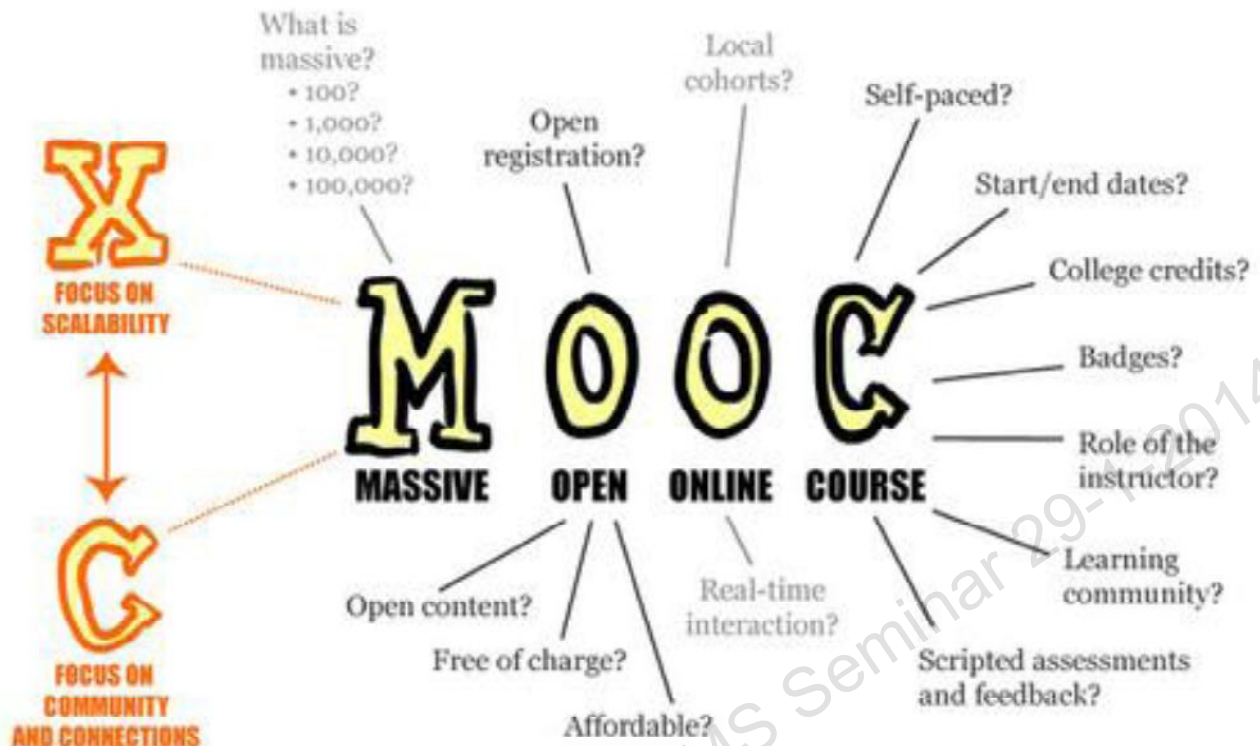
What Will I Learn?
This class introduces students to the basics of Artificial Intelligence, which includes machine learning, probabilistic reasoning, robotics, and natural language processing.

Course Instructors
Sebastian Thrun
Instructor

Sebastian Thrun is a Research Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, a Google Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the German Academy of Sciences. Thrun is best known for his research in robotics and machine learning, specifically his work with self-driving cars.

Syllabus
Overview of AI
Statistics, Uncertainty, and Bayes networks
Machine Learning
Logic and Planning
Markov Decision Processes and Reinforcement Learning
Hidden Markov Models and Filters

Characteristics of a MOOC



MOOC providers (July 2013)



The scale in MOOCs

270,000

Students enrolled in Udacity's Introduction to Computer Science MOOC

200,000

US university first-years intending to major in computer science



MOOCs TOPPING THE CHARTS

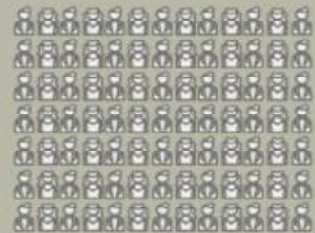
-- 2013 --
THE NEW YORK TIMES
REPORTED THAT MORE THAN

5 Million students



AROUND THE WORLD HAVE REGISTERED FOR
MOOCs

Each course may have
HUNDREDS,
THOUSANDS,
or **HUNDREDS**
OF THOUSANDS
of students



and just
ONE
professor

As of 2013

13% of schools offer MOOCs

That's expected to rise to
43%
by 2016

In a 2013 Chronicle of Higher Education survey of MOOC educators,

THE MEDIAN ENROLLMENT PER COURSE WAS

→ 33,000

To MOOC or not to MOOC?



Join MOOC

Prepare for the
journey
New business
model

Status Quo

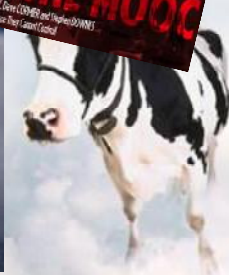
Withstand the
threat
Hope MOOC will
go away

Quick decision is needed



Universities' reaction to MOOC

1. Repel
2. Wait & See
3. Adopt
 - Producer
 - Consumer



Why universities support MOOC?

- Extend the reach of education
- Enhance the profile of an institution
- Provide FREE or low cost education for the masses
- Enhance the flexibility and quality of subjects/programs currently being offered
- Innovative way of sourcing quality content
- Collect learning data and deliver personalised training
- To counteract the threat
- ...



GIT fires the first shot!!!



MOOC News Roundup - The Low-cost Online Degree is Here

Posted by Robert McQuinn on May 16, 2012 in [Great Work](#), [SIBIR's Blog](#), [Featured](#), [Innovation](#), [Work](#), [News](#)



Welcome. Here's your roundup of MOOC News for May 16, 2012

Before the big news, let's look at some content. Our "something's got to change" white paper of the week is "Voice of the Graduate" from [McKinsey & Company](#).



- Nearly half of graduates from four-year colleges say they are in jobs that don't require a four-year degree.
- Half of all graduates express regrets, saying they would pick a different major or school if they had to do it all over again.
- The types of jobs for which demand is growing are different now than they were 20 years ago, and they increasingly require specialized skills that graduates are not acquiring to a sufficient degree.

Why is the MOOC news? Well, do you hear about the same brand university that's going to start using MOOCs to offer a complete (graduate) degree that is

- coordinated with market demand
- a fraction of the cost
- serves many times the usual number of students

This week Georgia Institute of Technology announced a new online master's degree program in computer science that will be taught using Udacity courses and supported by tutors and mentors at the university. The cost of the Master of Science in Computer Science – a 10-course program taking about three years to complete – will be \$7,000. On a per-credit basis, that's \$134 vs. \$1,139 for out-of-state students,

which means that on a per-credit basis, that's like an \$800 for out-of-state students, never mind the savings on living and travel expenses. Georgia Tech expects to enroll 1,000 students in the first three years.

To people who argue that MOOCs will turn faculty into overpaid teaching assistants,

From MOOCs to university credits

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER ED Technology

July 8, 2013

A University's Offer of Credit for a MOOC Gets No Takers

By Steve Kolowich

It was big news last fall when Colorado State University Global Campus became the first college in the United States to grant credit to students who passed a MOOC, or massive open online course.

For students, it meant a chance to get college credit on the cheap: \$89, the cost of the required proctored exam, compared with the \$1,050 that Colorado State charges for a comparable three-credit course.

That is a big discount.

Yet almost a year after Global Campus made the announcement, officials are still waiting for their first credit bargain-hunters.



Wharton offers FREE MBA course online

Bloomberg Businessweek Business Schools



GETTING IN

News and insights on B-school admissions, careers, and more

MBA Programs

Wharton Puts First-Year MBA Courses Online for Free

By Louis Lavelle | September 13, 2013



Getting a Wharton MBA involves taking off from work for two years, moving to Philadelphia, and spending about \$200,000 on tuition and expenses. Now, with the addition of three new courses on the online learning platform Coursera, you can get much of the course content for free.

A free MBA Coursera.

By Luis Moreno | 2:14 PM | Coursera, MBA, MOOC | Leave a Comment

HOME

MOOCs

About UMI MOOC

University

Education

Coursera



We've gone crazy! ? A Free MBA?

Yes, and good: Wharton Business School (Pennsylvania) will offer the first course of your MBA (valued at over \$200,000) and for free, online. ? **And where is the trick?** Well, it really has opened the course content and integrated into the platform Coursera: not obtained the MBA degree, but you can acquire the knowledge that he tries to instill in areas such as marketing, accounting, financial economics. It is the adaptation of the MBA to MOOC methodology.

Obliviate the debates between "education", "knowledge" and "titles" and go to the obvious. What does this course, and why is it so interesting?



Credibility of a MOOC course

72% Of Professors Who Teach Online Courses Don't Think Their Students Deserve Credit



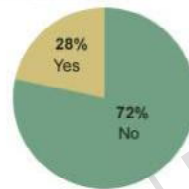
GREGORY FERENSTEIN ✓

posted yesterday

101 Comments

This is not a good sign for online education: 72 percent of professors who have taught Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) **don't believe that students should get official college credit**, even if they did well in the class. More importantly, these are the professors who voluntarily took time to teach online courses, which means the actual number of professors who discount the quality of MOOCs is probably much (much) higher. The survey reveals the Grand Canyon-size gap between the higher-education establishment and the coalition of tech companies and lawmakers that are **mandating college credit** for online courses.

Do you believe students who succeed in your MOOC deserve formal credit from your home institution?



The first MOOC... back in 2011

Stanford University Artificial Intelligence course – 160k students from 195 countries signed up. 20k completion certificates issued.

The screenshot shows the Udacity course page for 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence'. The page includes a video player with a video titled 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence' featuring Sebastian Thrun and Peter Norvig. Below the video, there are sections for 'Class Summary', 'What Should I Know?', 'What Will I Learn?', and 'Course Instructors'. The 'Course Instructors' section lists Sebastian Thrun as the instructor. The page also features navigation links like 'Course Catalog', 'Sign In', and 'Sign Up'.

Completion rate at edX

BREAK IT DOWN! EDX'S FIRST MOOC

MIT and Harvard professors took a look at the student body of 6.002x: "Circuits and Electronics" in a 2013 study



Enrollment vs. Completion

155,000+

students registered



7,100+

passed, earning a certificate



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The screenshot shows the Udacity course page for 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence'. The page includes a video player with the course title and Stanford Engineering logo. Below the video, there are sections for 'The instructors' (Sebastian Thrun and Peter Norvig), 'Class Summary', 'What Should I Know?', 'What Will I Learn?', and 'Course Instructors'. The 'Class Summary' section states: 'The objective of this class is to teach you modern AI. You will learn about the basic techniques and tricks of the trade. We also aspire to excite you about the field of AI.' The 'What Will I Learn?' section states: 'This class introduces students to the basics of Artificial Intelligence, which includes machine learning, probabilistic reasoning, robotics, and natural language processing.' The 'Course Instructors' section features a photo of Sebastian Thrun and text: 'Sebastian Thrun is a Research Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, a Google Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the German Academy of Sciences. Thrun is best known for his research in robotics and machine learning, specifically his work with self-driving cars.'

Thrun: "MOOC not for higher education"

7/12/13

Time to move beyond MOOC hype? | The Australian

THE AUSTRALIAN

Time to move beyond MOOC hype?

RY RIVARD INSIDE HIGHER ED JULY 12, 2013 12:00AM

AS scores of universities rush to offer free online classes, the mania over massive open online courses may be slowing down. Even top proponents of MOOCs are acknowledging critical questions remain unanswered, and are urging further study.

Dan Greenstein, the head of post-secondary success at the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** (<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>), now wonders aloud if MOOCs are a "viable thing or are just a passing fad." Gates has agreed to spend \$3 million for wide-reaching MOOC-related grants. But Greenstein said higher education is suffering from "innovation exhaustion," and MOOCs are part of the problem.

"It seems to me, at least with respect to MOOCs,



Sebastian Thrun, CEO of Udacity. Source: Supplied

Revenue from MOOCs

(Provider) charges **(an institution)** for developing, hosting and/or delivering a MOOC subject

(University/Provider) charges **(a learner)** for issuing a completion certificate, taking an assessment and/or an examination, or taking a degree course

(Provider) charges **(an employer)** for referring its best students

(Provider) charges **(an institution)** for validating a learner has attended a course

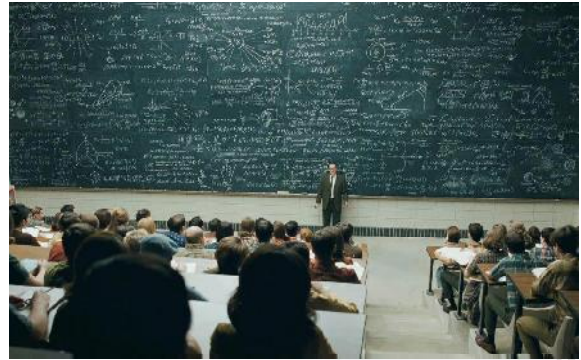
(Provider) charges **(an institution)** for using a MOOC course to enhance/expand its existing on-campus course/degree offering

(Provider/University) charges **(an individual, company, institution)** for embedding part(s) of a MOOC subject into its own learning content



Shortfalls in MOOCs' adoption

- **Lack of face-to-face contact**
- **Under-leverage of pedagogy & technology**
- **Teachers' attitude and delivery of education need to change**
- **MOOC alone cannot enhance the quality of education**
- **Universities still consider LMS as a strategic tool with a strong cost focus**



Discussion

- ***Should PolyU go MOOC?***
- ***Would you develop (part of) a MOOC?***
- ***What are the opportunities, obstacles and issues?***
- ***Any other thoughts?***





- A variety of complex issues concerning copyright and IP
- Quality assurance of MOOC subjects
- Identifying effective MOOC course designs
- Identifying appropriate MOOC production values
- Learning what makes feedback/assessment most effective?
- Learning what promotes effective engagement (and completion)
- Negotiating the interface with credit and degree programs
- Evolution of Signature Track and its fidelity
- Integration with tools outside the MOOC platform (e.g new app platform)
- Sustainability in a changing landscape?

To MOOC or not to MOOC?



Join MOOC

Prepare for the
journey
New business
model

Status Quo

Withstand the
threat
Hope MOOC will
go away

Quick decision is needed



Education for the handicapped

Access denied

Maya Wang says children with disabilities are being pushed out of schools despite Chinese laws mandating universal education, and such discrimination persists through to university

Millions of children across China have just begun a new school year. Some are going to schools equipped with resources their parents could only have dreamed of—laptops, science labs, sports fields—and some will continue to wow the world on international test rankings. Others go to schools that lack basic resources—or are unable to attend school at all. This disadvantaged group includes students with disabilities, and far too many are being denied an education despite China's legal obligations.

Beijing claims near-universal enrollment for the general population. But

receive no basic education at all. Among the officially estimated 83 million people with disabilities in China, more than 40 per cent are illiterate and at least 15 million live on less than US\$1 a day, underscoring the lifelong consequences of a lack of access to education.

Why are so many children with disabilities not in school? First, it is difficult to get



Crowdsource the development of a new subject via a competition

MOOC PRODUCTION FELLOWSHIP

Voting

Details

Jury

Login or register

English -

MOOC PRODUCTION FELLOWSHIP

by iversity and Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft

What would you like to learn?

We will award 250,000 Euros for the production of ten open online courses. Now it is your turn: Choose your personal favourites!

SEE ALL COURSES



What is a MOOC, and what's in it for me?

Lets Flip the Classroom!

In the 2012 March special issue of the *Harvard Business Review*, I learned a powerful insight about how we can get better prepared for a complicated world! In that issue, they stated that given the world we live in today (fast paced, complex, ambiguous, confusing and confronted with competing demands) our students (and managers) need to learn much more than they are currently learning and they need to learn faster! If this is the case, our strategy class need to take it to the next level. The short video lectures I have uploaded here is one of the ways in which we can **learn more and learn faster!** By covering the fundamentals of a topic via video (and allowing you to watch them at your own pace, anytime, anywhere), we create time during our in-class meetings to engage in more Socratic Debates and open up deeper discussions about the subject matter! Hence, these videos are designed to give you a basic understanding about the key issues I want you to be aware of and zoom-in specifically on those PowerPoint slides that will help you better appreciate the rest of the slides for that topic. You will need to download these PPT slides (uploaded in our CONTENT icon) and have them ready when you watch the videos. Again, in the way I have designed this course, and in the true spirit of the "Staying F.O.C.U.S.E.D." Philosophy of our learning environment, these videos complement and provide an important DOT from which you are expected to (re)connect with the other learning opportunities available to us throughout our course. Enjoy

Strategy Video Lectures



Dr. Robert P. Wright
4th September, 2013



Partnership with Corporate Universities

So, now we're introducing...
The New Way of Learning



Reaching out to the best brains

ONLINE

Courses are even reaching as far as developing countries like Mongolia, where high school students are taking courses from:



Ivory League universities can rely on MOOCs to identify the smartest brains worldwide & attract them to

...

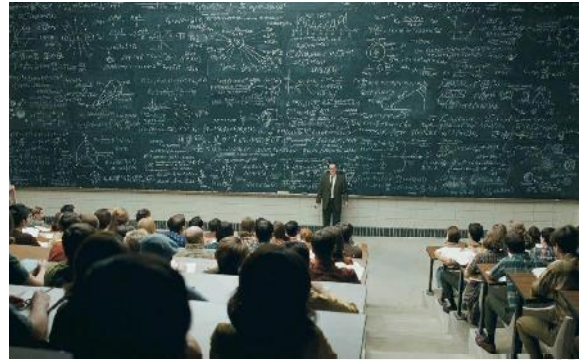
Other benefits of MOOCs

1. Blended MOOCs
2. Scalable & Shared resource among universities
3. Gather learning analytics & deliver personalised content to learners
4. Education for the community
5. Platform for course authoring, learning & problem solving for universities, businesses & individuals



Shortfalls in MOOCs' adoption

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- Teachers' attitude and delivery of education need to change
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MOOC Pedagogy & Practicality

edX: edXDEMO101: edX Demo



MOOCs, Mechanization, and the Modern Professor

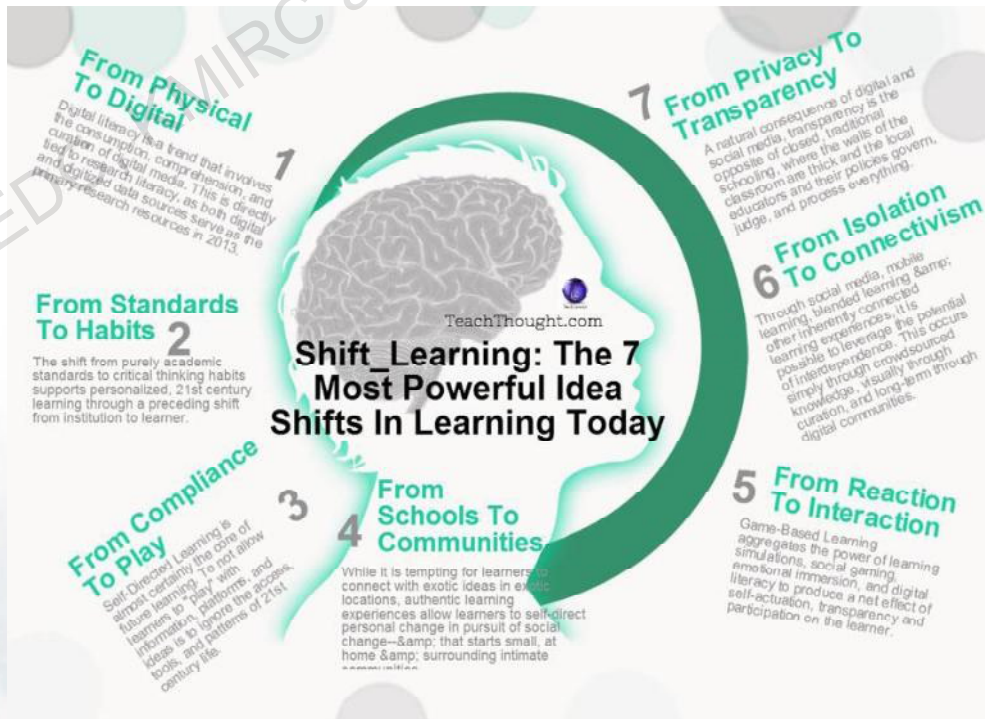


MOOC Pedagogy

- These early MOOCs, known as connectivist or cMOOCs, focus on knowledge creation and generation rather than knowledge duplication
- Five steps to success in a cMOOC –
 - 1. Orient,
 - 2. Declare,
 - 3. Network,
 - 4. Cluster,
 - 5. Focus.
- A connectivist course is based on four major types of activity –1. Aggregate, 2. Remix, 3. Repurpose, 4. Feed Forward

www.PresentationPro.com

21st Century Education



IMG REF - <http://www.teachthought.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/shifts-21learning-revised.jpg>

www.PresentationPro.com

MOOC Pedagogy

ACTIVITY – Minimal Features for MOOChood

- Review the Minimal, Salient, Edge and Disqualifying features of a MOOC
- Identify HOW is a MOOC Different from your existing LMS Course?

(Blackboard / Moodle / Desire2Learn Course)



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Assessing MOOC Pedagogy

- The purpose of this new line of research is to design and validate an instrument that characterizes the pedagogical approaches taken in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and to use that instrument to distinguish among MOOCs and to explore the efficacy of differing approaches
- 10 dimensional scale adapted from similar scales developed Reeves (1996) to characterize computer-based instruction, and Harris & Hofer (2009), to characterize technology integration, along pedagogical dimensions based on learning and instructional design theory

PEDOGOGICAL DIMENSIONS

- Epistemology
- Role of Teacher
- Focus of Activities
- Structure
- Approach to Content
- Feedback
- Cooperative Learning
- Accommodations for Individual Differences
- Activities/Assessment
- Use Role

REF - <http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2013/aln/exploring-mooc-pedagogy>



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Practicality - VU and MOOCs

<http://www.vu.edu.au/>

www.PresentationPro.com

The VU Context



THE VU AGENDA AND BLUEPRINT FOR CURRICULUM REFORM

CAPABILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

November 2012



- A dual-sector University servicing a large, low SES population in the West of Melbourne with a high number of first in family students
- 7 Colleges
- Students: 51,642
- Staff: 2,496
- Number of campuses: 9
- Number of offshore sites: 17



The VU Context

- A Mini MOOC in the BBus Career Start Degree – **WHY?**
- Specialisations - The Bachelor of Business offers specialisations in nineteen disciplines

(ref - <http://www.vu.edu.au/about-us/academic-colleges/business/>)



www.PresentationPro.com

MOOC in CONTEXT @ VU

Course content is not located in any one place, but can be found all over the web.

Participants and instructors aggregate, remix and repurpose that content during the course.

Course participants are likely distributed all over the world.

Most MOOCs are free; there may be a fee if the participant is working toward a form of accreditation.

True to its name, MOOCs can be massive with a few hundred to several thousand participants engaged in a course simultaneously.

TODAY, MOST MOOCs SHARE THESE CHARACTERISTICS:

The courses do not have specific requirements, but active participants are required to stay up to date with rough schedules.

The classroom is one of many hubs where interaction occurs, including personal blogs or portfolios, websites, social networking sites, and more.



WHAT'S A MOOC?

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE

SOURCES: ISPUB.COM | DAVEGORMIER.COM | SITES.GOOGLE.COM | EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG | SLIDESHARE.NET | NYTIMES.COM



ACTIVITY

Dissecting a MOOC: A Critical Examination of Current Pedagogy and HarvardX: One Year In

(REF - <http://www.educause.edu/events/educause-virtual-annual-conference-2013-0/2013/dissecting-mooc-critical-examination-current-pedagogy-and-harvardx-one->)

Using California State University, Chico's Rubric for Online Instruction as the guideline participants will identify key considerations for the development of A Business Statistics mini-MOOC

(Rubric Reference - www.csuchico.edu/roi/documents/rubricpdf)



PolyU's journey into MOOC

1. **A MOOC Steering Group is being formed**
2. **Large grants to be awarded for developing (partial) MOOC subjects**
3. **MOOC subjects/topics to be launched by Sept 2015**
4. **Keeping a watching brief of MOOC platforms**
5. **Collaborating with 7 other HK higher education institutions on several UGC Cross-institutional T&L grants**

Advisory Committee on Elearning

Community of Practice on using Blackboard LMS to enhance Teaching & Learning

