

## Flipping the Classroom and Furthering Our Careers

### Introduction

Lynda.com is an online learning website that offers video tutorials for a variety of topics and software programs. Subject matter experts create the course tutorials. While using the site is not free, many universities have purchased access for all students and faculty at their institutions, providing a valuable resource for learning. Even at institutions where access has not been purchased campus wide, there are educational options for courses and faculty development for purchase. Two basic uses of the site will be discussed. First is the use of Lynda.com to flip the classroom experience. Second is the use of Lynda.com for faculty members to learn new programs and skills.

### Flipping the Classroom

The idea of flipping the classroom has been receiving a lot of attention lately. One example that has been very successful is the Khan Academy, which offers free educational materials. The concept of the flipped classroom is to allow students the opportunity to learn the material outside of class at their own pace and then be able to apply that information in class when the teacher is available to help. This contrasts with the traditional model of learning the concepts in class and then applying the material with homework when the teacher is not available to help. The benefit of this approach is that students are able to ask for help with specific questions regarding the content and the work they are trying to accomplish.

One benefit of Lynda.com for flipping the classroom is the wide variety of video tutorials and materials that are available. Some of the subjects include new media, career development, computer skills, data analysis, business, finance, and video, though the list of subjects available is much more extensive. Once students have access to the site, they are able to peruse the materials at their leisure. They first access the Lynda.com course, and they are then able to view multiple lessons that walk them through the materials. The lessons range in skill level and the time taken to complete each lesson. Some extensive learning modules are as long as 13 hours, while others can be completed in one to two hours.

If an institution has not purchased a site license for all faculty and students, Lynda.com offers an educational course option. The instructor can choose up to five Lynda.com lessons/topics to be used in the course. The institution can pay this cost for the student or Lynda.com can be set up for the student to login and pay for the course. This can be used instead of having a textbook. The cost per student usually ranges between \$35 and \$40, which is cheaper than a textbook in many cases.

### Skill Development

While Lynda.com is a resource for enhancing the classroom experience, it is also a resource for faculty members looking to learn new skills and programs. There is a need for faculty members to stay up to date on trends in technology, and Lynda.com offers a means of doing so that is not as time intensive as going to live training sessions or scouring books for programs that are often costly.

Lynda.com also has the ability to take off some of the workload for teaching necessary technologies for graduate students to accomplish their tasks. Data analysis programs like SPSS that are commonly used have tutorials online that could help graduate students learn the programs in a structured manner that does not take away from the time of faculty members.

If an institution has not set up site licensing, an individual faculty member can purchase a yearly or monthly membership to access lessons and tutorials. Prices vary depending on the level of access and the length of commitment.

### Conclusions

Please note that the authors of this teaching tip are in no way affiliated with or paid by Lynda.com. We offer these suggestions as a way for you to enhance classroom instruction and work on professional development related to technology based skills. In a busy world, Lynda.com offers solutions for instructors to flip their classrooms and/or improve their skills one tutorial at a time.

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