

# At a Glance – What Digital Learning Formats Are There?

Teaching online is not difficult if you pay attention to a few points. We have put together the most important and common learning formats for you here. With them, nothing can go wrong and you can get started right away.



## 1. Webinar

A live online seminar in which all participants meet at the same time in a virtual seminar room and discuss a topic; there is a special form of them called automated webinars, which often consist of educational videos and learning tasks that the learners complete individually.



## 2. Blended learning

A mix of virtual learning and shared learning in one place. The participants get to know each other personally and work together on a topic. Learning is complemented by online elements. They are often webinars, and sometimes educational videos or other digital learning resources.



## 3. Massive open online course (MOOC)

An online course that may resemble a webinar but is usually characterised by having a large number of participants. The abbreviation is MOOC. The focus is on the educational video, which, depending on the design, is accompanied by other offers such as tasks or tutorials.



#### 4. Virtual/augmented reality

Learning options that can be experienced with 3D glasses and either are based on digital simulations or project digital elements onto real objects via a screen. For example, both are well suited to showing simulations or to creating visibility for things that you would not be able to see without digital support.



#### 5. Podcast

A series of audio files that are recorded by a podcaster on a specific theme. Each episode is dedicated to a topic which is explained in more detail by the podcaster during the episode. Audio formats are becoming increasingly popular because they can be heard and used very flexibly.



#### 6. Educational video

The classic digital learning format. An educational video is a short video that sums up a specific topic succinctly and is often no longer than four to eight minutes. Depending on the subject and preference, the speaker might be visible (talking head) or a subject can be illustrated in more detail with the help of animations or animated films (explanatory video).



#### 7. Learning pathways

Learning pathways are a relatively new format for digital learning. They are similar to playlists, except that they contain different digital materials, all of which are dedicated to a topic and have been compiled by someone to form a learning pathway (e.g. videos, graphics, podcasts as well as entire MOOCs). The creator has not only learned the content but has also made his or her chosen learning pathway accessible to others by creating the list.



### 8. Micro-content

Micro-content refers to individual digital elements such as infographics, individual learning videos, individual podcast sequences, etc., which are self-contained and can stand alone. The advantage here is the great flexibility of the content, which is often very concise and to the point and helps to provide a quick overview of a matter.



### 9. Serious games and simulation games

Computer games are now also available as digital learning formats. There are very different approaches to this, ranging from playful apps that basically have only one function to support things like mental arithmetic, for example, to complex digital simulation games which, for example, can teach skills for vocational training that would otherwise have to be taught at much greater expense in an analogue format. In addition, the games are fun and motivating as a result.



### 10. E-portfolio

An e-portfolio is the digital variation of a portfolio and can be used in a variety of ways. For example, the entire field of design and IT is suitable, though other fields are easy to include, too. The portfolio is gradually filled with digital content (e.g. micro-content) that is created by the portfolio owner. The portfolio work can be easily embedded in MOOCs that are supervised, as it documents the learning progress of the participants and can also be coupled with practical exercises.



### 11. Forum

A forum offers an opportunity for interacting, asking questions and discussing with people within other digital learning formats. Today, forums are often embedded as part of larger learning settings such as MOOCs, however many forums are still stand-alone and are a learning venue in themselves, for example, for people to exchange ideas on topical issues through a forum.



### 12. Chat and messaging

Chat and messenger services have become part of most people's everyday lives. They are also important as part of digital learning and serve to facilitate fast and uncomplicated communication, like in supervised courses, webinars or longer-term digital learning opportunities, in order to strengthen the contact between the participants and to be able to get in touch with the teacher.



### 13. Flipped classroom

The flipped-classroom approach describes a multitude of digital learning formats that are always associated with the philosophy of 'learning through teaching'. In this context, learners work on the learning content independently and create their own learning materials. Based on them, they can pass on their knowledge to others. It often involves videos, although in principle any other digital learning formats are also possible. The idea behind this is that knowledge is remembered better when you must share it with others.



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