United States – Saylor Academy

Located in Washington D.C., USA, Saylor Academy is a non-profit initiative working since 2008 to offer free and open online courses to all who want to learn.

Student numbers

More than 100 thousand students	20-100 thousand students	1-20 thousand students	No data

Core Funding

Private ——◆————————— Public

Qualifications offered

Vocational qualification (ISCED 3-4)	Master's degree or equivalent (ISCED 7)
Associate degree or equivalent (ISCED 5)	Doctoral degree or equivalent (ISCED 8)
Undergraduate degree or equivalent (ISCED 6)	Informal recognition (e.g. badges)
No formal/non-formal credits or qualifications / independent study	Other: completion certificates, transcripts of record

Subjects offered

Generic programmes and qualifications	Information and communication technologies
Education	Engineering
Arts and humanities	Agriculture & veterinary
Social sciences, journalism and information	Health and welfare
Business, administration and law	Security, transport, hygiene and public health services
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Other

Business Model

Fixed core model

Defender-related characteristics *versus* Prospector-related characteristics

Business Model: Additional Information

The business model focuses on using digital technologies to reach existing markets via traditional channels using the same or similar products and services as in the past.

Organisation of learning provision

Primarily campus provision	Primarily distance learning provision (correspondence)	Primarily online provision

Technology-enhanced learning elements

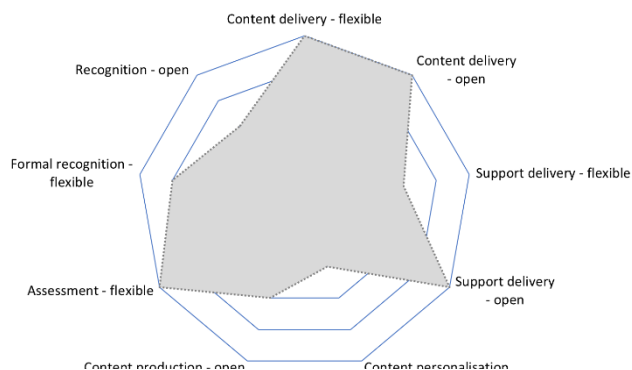|	
Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)	Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
Open Educational Resources (OER)	Wikis
Digital Badging	Videoconference
Learning Analytics	Teleconference
Artificial Intelligence	Learning Management System (LMS)
E-Portfolios	Mobile Learning
Blogging and micro-blogging	Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
Social Media	Online Assessment
Other	

TEL Strategy

Focus on existing technologies to expand access to education. Further exploration of learning resources to deliver contents remotely and asynchronously, involving mobile delivery and improved technology-enabled assessments.

OOFAT Model

Interpretation: The closer the line moves towards the centre, the more fixed and institution-specific the approach taken by the institution. The further from the centre, the more flexible and open the approach.

OOFAT for multiple projects

OOFAT Model: Additional Information

Content

Learner-centred course design, sometimes constrained by explicit use of OER in terms of teaching aid and presentation mode. Same contents for all learners. Contents mostly created externally. Self-created contents if no OER exists on subject matter. Most assessments created in-house. All Saylor Academy courses (comprising , defined as the structure, syllabus, learning outcomes, unit descriptions, and material framing third party content) are licensed CC-BY.

Delivery

Free online access of contents. Certain contents (e.g. assessments) only available to students enrolled in the course. Enrolment and unenrolment free of cost. Saylor staff as primary learner support are generally available 12 hours a day, 5 days a week. Support generally solicited via Email. Peer-to-peer support via forums is encouraged.

Recognition

Learners are free to take assessment at any time. Mandatory waiting period before subsequent attempt of the same assessment. Assessment and grading mechanism designed by experts and implemented by Saylor staff. Formal recognition of learning is dependent of passing set assessments, however, the process for preparing for those assessments is up to the students. Students may choose to jump the learning components and take assessment right away, often the case for prior learners on the subject. Saylor assessment as method of recognition for learning that has taken place elsewhere.