MOOC - A Growing Educational Trend

Maya Adam

Maya Adam MD is a human biology lecturer at Stanford University who teaches courses in child nutrition and child health. In May 2013, Maya Adam expanded her educational reach through a [massive open online course (MOOC)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massive_open_online_course) in child nutrition and cooking.

A growing trend in online education, MOOCs use a model for delivering online instruction that caters to thousands of students at a time by allowing free and open access to course content. MOOCs employ traditional materials such as books, videos, and lectures in addition to online tools such as web-based forums, which work to build an online community around the course.

First appearing in the early 2000s, MOOCs quickly gained popularity after Stanford and MIT began offering them and attracted hundreds of thousands of participants in the process. Today, MOOC providers, such as Udacity, Coursera, and edX have teamed with several universities throughout the United States to offer hundreds of courses in a range of subjects. The trend has found its way into other countries, with MOOC providers launching in the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, and Australia.