



Our Mission Commitments: One Year Later

as of January 2023

Introduction.

When edX was acquired by 2U, we remained dedicated as an organization to our underlying shared mission to expand access to affordable, high-quality education for everyone, everywhere. Our mission commitments lay the groundwork for us to deliver world-class outcomes at scale and enable us to help solve society's most critical needs. These commitments are defined by seven principles that we continue to believe will advance our mission and serve our partners. They include increasing access to high-quality and diverse educational content and guaranteeing affordability through the continuation of a free track to audit courses; protecting the intellectual property rights of faculty and institutions that contribute massive open online courses "MOOCs;" ensuring that participating colleges and universities may continue under their standing agreements with edX; creating affordable degrees and degree pathways such as MicroMasters® and MicroBachelors® programs; advancing the edX platform for teaching and learning; supporting the fully open source and independent platform Open edX; and continuing to foster research and collaboration with member institutions. In this report, we have outlined the progress we have made in pursuance of our mission commitments.

Access

Increasing access to high-quality offerings and commitment to diversity of content

We have continued to make a broad range of MOOCs across disciplines available on the edX platform, and most of these courses are offered for free (either with full course participation or on an audit track) or at low cost. MOOC offerings cover a diverse range of subject matters, from art and architecture to business management to science and artificial intelligence. In 2022 alone, we launched over 500 new free courses on the edX platform. The full course catalog is available at edX.org. We are also committed to making our platform accessible for learners with disabilities.

Some other highlights of our commitment to increasing access during 2022 include:

- In May 2022, we selected 10 institutions to receive grants totaling \$1 million to produce new free courses in essential human skills for the virtual age. You can learn more about the winners in the [press release](#).
- In June 2022, we expanded access to the free Online Campus Essentials subscription offering to continue supporting universities in their transition to online learning during the pandemic for an additional two years (through June 2024). Since the launch of this program, we have supported nearly 115,000 learners from approximately 500 higher education institutions with nearly 400,000 total course enrollments.

Intellectual Property Rights

Protecting the intellectual property rights of faculty and universities that contribute massive open online courses

We have continued to protect the intellectual property rights of edX members with respect to the MOOCs they develop on our platform by providing in our participation agreements that institutions or faculty retain intellectual property rights to MOOC content.

edX Member Relationships and Agreements

Ensuring that participating colleges and universities may continue under their standing agreements with edX

Following the acquisition, we have preserved the relationships edX had with its members to ensure continuity and consistency for our partners, including:

- preserving existing participation agreements;
- continuing to make pricing decisions in consultation with the edX member;
- continuing to make edX site learner data available for research to edX members;
- supporting the broader research community by making anonymized edX site learner data easier to use; and
- continuing to host all MOOCs that edX members choose to put on the edX site and generally maintaining existing course removal or rejection rights.

Program Affordability

Creating affordable degrees and degree pathways such as MicroMasters and MicroBachelors programs

MicroMasters and MicroBachelors programs provide an affordable and stackable pathway to a masters or bachelors degree. Since we acquired edX, we have launched 7 new MicroMasters programs and 5 new MicroBachelors programs, including:

MicroMasters programs:

- UW-Madison - data, insights and analysis
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology - big data technology
- University of Canterbury - organizational psychology
- University of Maryland - database management systems
- Universidad del Rosario - derachos humanos: desafios contemporaneos

- Universidad del Rosario - finanzas
- Universidad del Rosario - fundamentos de investigacion en ciencias de la salud

MicroBachelors programs:

- Thomas Edison State University - information literacy
- LSE - statistics fundamentals
- LSE - mathematics and statistics fundamentals
- Southern New Hampshire University - anatomy and physiology essentials
- Southern New Hampshire University - microbiology

We also announced the following new MicroMasters and MicroBachelors programs:

- A [collaboration with Baylor University to launch a MicroMasters program in social work](#), giving prospective students an affordable and accessible pathway to a Master of Social Work degree.
- A collaboration with The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) to launch a [stackable pathway to its existing online undergraduate degrees](#) with its first two MicroBachelors programs in [Statistics Fundamentals](#) and [Mathematics and Statistics Fundamentals](#).

Program affordability is one of our priorities, and we partner with many university clients on degrees that are priced below the corresponding campus degree, including Boston University MBA, Boston University MPH, University of Texas Austin Computer Science, University of Texas Austin Data Science, University of Texas Austin Nutrition, University of Texas Austin Artificial Intelligence, University of Maryland Product Management, and Indiana University MS in Information Technology Management. Visit press.edx.org for more information on programs announced since the closing.

Education Innovation and Quality of Online and Blended Learning

Advancing the Open edX platform for teaching and learning

We have continued to promote and invest in the Open edX platform to improve engagement, pedagogy, learning outcomes, and blended learning features and continued to encourage faculty of non-edX member institutions to author courses and materials on the Open edX platform. For example, we released edX live Zoom integration for certain offerings; new discussion forums integrations and features; new integrations with LTI 1.3 advantage, now certified by IMS; caliper analytics integration v1.2; a new manual speedgrader; team assignments and team graded open response assessments; and personalized learner goal setting and nudges, which significantly increased learner engagement.

We have also advanced the edX platform by adding 25 new edX members since we acquired edX (asterisk indicates legacy 2U partner):

- Stellenbosch University*
- Statistics.com (Elder Research, Inc. dba The Institute for Statistics Education)
- Oracle
- Qatar University
- London School of Economics*
- LEORON Saudi Experts Company for Training
- American Psychological Association
- UC Riverside Extension*
- George Washington University*
- WOBI (HSM Americas, Inc.)
- University of California, Davis*
- Wesleyan University
- Pepperdine University*
- Baylor University*
- DEC Institute (DEC Education Services AG)
- Lehigh University
- BoxPlay (BoxMedia Agency LTD)
- Intuit Inc.
- Lufthansa Technical Training
- The TEFL Org (TEFL Scotland Ltd)
- Southern Methodist University*
- Tel Aviv University
- Cabrini University
- Arcadia University*
- SDA Bocconi School of Management*

While our main efforts have focused on encouraging institutions to become edX members and author courses on Open edX, we have also encouraged non-members to adopt Open edX and author courses on the open source platform. As we add new members, we have maintained quality expectations and sought to ensure new members uphold the edX reputation for delivering high-quality educational content.

Open Source

Supporting the fully open source platform Open edX

We have continued to use the Open edX platform for MOOCs offered on the edX site. This means that most of the MOOCs offered on the edX site are delivered via the Open edX platform.

Research, Collaboration and Other

Continuing to foster research and collaboration with member institutions

We are working towards making more courses available in non-English with edX members reviewing and consenting to any translation of their course content. All of which are searchable by language on edX.org.

We seek opportunities for edX members to work together on strategic projects. [We formed the ULC \(University Leadership Council\) as well as the UPAC \(University Partnership Advisory Council\) to foster deeper relationships among our partners](#) and with 2U/edX. We plan to hold the edX Global Forum in 2023 which has been a great venue for partners to discuss strategic projects.

We support Open edX platform mechanisms for research by edX members such as A-B testing and we are maintaining pre-acquisition research mechanisms. In addition, we are developing xAPI and Caliper interfaces for event data. We have implemented Micro Front Ends (MFEs) and Optimizely, which allow developers and product leads to easily reposition or hide/show page elements and widgets for rapid experimentation.

We have also maintained or improved the visibility and discoverability of the edX site course catalog. We improved the relevancy of results by adding the ability to filter content by geography and added features that use artificial intelligence to improve ranking results based on data.

We have promoted the Open edX Platform for our university partner programs. For example, the [London School of Economics \(a 2U partner\) has launched MicroBachelors programs](#) and open courses on the Open edX platform on edX.org. Many legacy 2U partners have become edX members including University of California Riverside, George Washington University, University of California Davis, Pepperdine, Baylor, Southern Methodist University and others. We expect these legacy 2U partners will author courses on the Open edX platform and you can read more about their plans in the relevant press releases on press.edX.org announcing they have joined as edX members.

We have made efforts to accelerate and invest in innovation with our partners. For example, we launched a [flexible degree partnership model](#), which provides a set of core services with unparalleled levels of support for a 35% revenue share.

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