

Understanding Instructional Design Differences In Online Learning

Online education comes with a range of instructional models designed for different learners and goals.

Here are some essential terms to help you navigate how courses are built and delivered:



Read Our Blog

Questions?

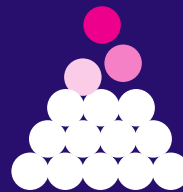
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Competency-Based Learning

This allows students to **progress by mastering material**, rather than following a set schedule or course length.

Self-Paced Learning



Self-paced lets students **move through lessons as quickly or slowly as they choose**, often with flexible deadlines.

Flipped Classroom



This approach delivers instructional content online, **saving live sessions for group discussion**, practice, or applied activities.

Synchronous Learning



This **involves attending live, scheduled virtual classes**—connecting with instructors and peers in real time.



Asynchronous Learning

Students work independently, accessing content and completing assignments **100% of the time on their own schedule**.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)



Builds courses around real-world projects and **hands-on problem-solving**, making learning practical and meaningful.

Adaptive or Personalized Learning



Uses technology to **tailor content and pacing to each student's** strengths, challenges, and interests.