

## Stanford's Free Online Courses For You?

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Stanford has contributed for several years to the open courseware community by uploading lectures, syllabi, and other course material. Last semester they made a huge step forward in free online education by providing actual classes, complete with short lecture modules, graded homework, exams, online office hours, and a certificate of completion. They initially offered Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Introduction to Database, and Machine Learning. I took the Artificial Intelligence class along with 66,000 other students around the world. The lectures and quizzes were exceptional quality.

Unlike the open courseware offered by Stanford in the past, these courses are like participating in a real class, with deadlines to meet and a vibrant community of fellow students working on the same material.

The courses were originally planned to start in late January, but they had to iron out some problems, so you can still apply today. Sixteen courses are being offered, in entrepreneurship, computer science, engineering, and complex systems. If you've got a bit of free time this semester and want to learn something new, check out the Machine Learning site [ml-class.org](http://ml-class.org) and scroll down the page for a list of all the offered courses.