

Lorne Hopkins

Digital Learning Journey

New Hire Onboarding Transformation

Project Summary

Schwab's new hire onboarding process relied on a 400+ page physical binder, resulting in inconsistent outcomes and high attrition. The mission was to reimagine onboarding as a digital, data-driven learning journey that improved performance, retention, and learner confidence.

Design Process

Structured Analysis

I applied ADDIE for overall project structure, SAM for rapid iteration on platforms and assets, the Dick & Carey model when clarifying outcomes and scope, Bloom's Taxonomy for learning objectives, and the Kirkpatrick model for evaluation.

Development Tools

Built scenario-based modules in Articulate 360 and deployed adaptive learning paths through Cornerstone LMS, supported by Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft 360, and TechSmith tools.

Collaboration & Iteration

Partnered with SMEs and product managers to co-author realistic scenarios, piloted with new-hire cohorts, and refined content using learner analytics and KPI trends.

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This project was significant to me because I believe instructional design is equal parts analysis, empathy, and experimentation. Transforming Schwab's onboarding allowed me to show how thoughtful design elevates both performance and culture.”

Course Structure Key Enhancements



Interactive Simulations

Scenario-based practice tied to real workflows, reinforcing decision-making and problem-solving.



Real-Time Feedback

Learner dashboards and facilitator views surfaced readiness, gaps, and coaching opportunities.



Adaptive Pathways

Role-based journeys and remediation paths accelerated time-to-proficiency for new hires.



Issues Resolution & Strategy Reinforcement

Stakeholder meetings, clear communication, project management tracking, system reviews, data collection, knowledge checks, scope and business objective alignment reviews, iterative agile development.



Impact & Results



33% Attrition Decreased



25% Retention Increased



Learner Confidence Survey and KPI Improvement



Handle Time Reduced



Zero Print Costs

Outcome: A scalable, digital onboarding experience that reduced attrition, improved KPIs, and gave leaders clear visibility into learner performance.

Welcome to
Charles Schwab
New Hire Training
Briener Greenfield