

Different types of e-learning

In general, three levels of e-learning are reported depending on the contexts and the requirements. The context may range from normal basic course to the most advanced level of an interactive course where materials are represented in a variety of ways. E-courses fall within three categories:

- a. Text Driven.** A very simple level that includes text, graphics, some audio, and simple test questions. For instance, compliance courses are a good example of text driven e-learning that usually has one purpose or goal: present the learning and quickly test on the content. The text driven course rarely has any interactive components, no gamification, and images used sparingly. PowerPoint files converted to e-learning often fall into this category.
- b. Interactive course.** An interactive e-learning course is very similar to a text driven one, with the exception that there has been more consideration placed on interactive components to enhance the learning. There is also a greater use of visuals in general (graphics, charts, diagrams), all of which are likely to have an interactive aspect. Unlike the text driven course, interactive courses also take advantage of additional media types, include videos.
- c. Simulation course.** Simulation e-learning is highly interactive and relies heavily upon graphics, video, audio and some level of gamification. Importantly, there are often custom simulations to aid in learning acquisition, which could very well include 3D components. New software training is an example of a course that often includes a high degree of interactivity and simulations. It isn't uncommon for these simulations to also be accompanied with some sort of controlled "test" environment. E-learning that is simulation heavy puts an emphasis on portraying concepts through various mediums, usually starting with text and graphics, with audio, and video examples. Afterwards, there is often a "try-it" mode where users can practice the new skills, potentially earning achievements or points along the way.

<i>Proportion of Content Delivered Online</i>	<i>Type of Course</i>	<i>Typical Description</i>
0%	Traditional	Course where no online technology used — content is delivered in writing or orally.
1 to 29%	Web Facilitated	Course that uses web-based technology to facilitate what is essentially a face-to-face course. May use a course management system (CMS) or web pages to post the syllabus and assignments.
30 to 79%	Blended/Hybrid	Course that blends online and face-to-face delivery. Substantial proportion of the content is delivered online, typically uses online discussions, and typically has a reduced number of face-to-face meetings.
80+%	Online	A course where most or all of the content is delivered online. Typically have no face-to-face meetings.

Online learning. Online courses are those in which at least 80% of the course content is delivered online. Face-to-face instruction includes courses in which zero to 29% of the content is delivered online; this category includes both traditional and web facilitated courses. The remaining alternative, blended (sometimes called hybrid) instruction has between 30 and 80% of the course content delivered online.