APPROACH TO LEARNING

Curricula for all Purdue Global programs are designed around career-oriented learning outcomes that prepare students to execute activities and projects to be successful in the workplace.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are written statements that describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors you are expected to master upon completion of a course or program at Purdue Global. There are four types of learning outcomes:

Program outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors you are expected to master upon completion of a program. Every program offered at Purdue Global contains several program outcomes. All other learning outcomes map to program outcomes.

Course outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors you are expected to master upon completion of a course.

General education literacies describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors you are expected to master to be literate in the general education areas of social sciences, math, professionalism and career development, communications, critical thinking, ethics, science, technology, arts and humanities, and research and information.

Professional competencies describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors you are expected to master throughout a degree program to be competent in the professional areas of communication, teamwork, leadership, problem solving and critical thinking, personal presentation, and cultural competency.

Course Types

The building blocks of Purdue Global's programs are courses. There are three types, **traditional courses**, **module courses**, and **open learning courses**, which provide you with options to meet your preferences regarding learning approach, schedule, and pace. Traditional courses and module courses, both credit-bearing, are delivered in 10-week terms (A, B, and C academic calendars (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/academic-information/calendar/)).

Traditional Courses

Traditional courses allow for multiple learning outcomes, and their credit value varies. They provide instructor-led, step-by-step learning with a fixed weekly schedule. Each traditional course contains assigned readings, learning activities, graded assignments, and virtual scheduled meetings (seminars) with your instructor and peers each week throughout the course. You also have the opportunity to work with your instructors outside of scheduled interaction through virtual office hours. Your instructor scores your performance on weekly learning activities, and your final course grade at the end of the course is the cumulative result of those scores.

Module Courses

Module courses are one-credit "pieces" of traditional courses built around a single learning outcome. They provide student-directed learning with ongoing instructor support over a variable schedule.

You begin the module course in the online classroom by taking a readiness check, a self-assessment whose results show how familiar you are with concepts in the module course. After reviewing the results of the readiness check, you determine how much time and effort to put into course readings and practice materials before you are ready to demonstrate mastery of course concepts in a summative assessment —a competency assessment. If you pass the assessment, the module course is complete, and you can begin work on the next module course in sequence on your schedule. Your instructor is available throughout the module course via live "faculty connect" meetings, discussion board exchanges, and email to teach, coach, and support you. You can collaborate with classmates via the discussion board.

For information on the policies governing module courses, see the academic policy (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/) section of the Catalog.

Open Learning Courses

Open learning courses, offered through the School of Multidisciplinary and Professional Studies, in partnership with other academic schools in the institution, are available to the public at no cost. If you take one and wish to demonstrate mastery of the course concepts you have learned, you may take a corresponding Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (ASK) for a small fee. If you pass the assessment, you earn college credit to apply toward a Purdue Global degree program.

While open learning courses can be applied toward many Purdue Global programs, they are particularly useful for the Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies and Associate of Science in Professional Studies programs.

Relationship Between Traditional Courses and Module Courses

The 🌐 icon appears in the title of traditional courses that are also available as a set of module courses.

As module courses are one-credit "pieces" of traditional courses, you can meet the same requirements by completing either a traditional course or a set of corresponding module courses.

Example: You can meet the CM107 🌐 College Composition I five-credit course requirement by passing either the traditional course or the equivalent five module courses.

- Traditional Course: CM107 🌐 College Composition I (worth five credits)
- Module Courses:
  - CM107M1 Understanding What You Read - A Pathway to Reading and Writing Success (worth one credit)
  - CM107M2 Using Language Appropriate to Audience and Writing Situation (worth one credit)
  - CM107M3 Writing an Effective Academic Essay (worth one credit)
  - CM107M4 Locating, Integrating, and Citing Reliable and Relevant Sources (worth one credit)
  - CM107M5 Writing Effective Professional Documents (worth one credit)

Learning Paths

At Purdue Global, learning paths allow you to progress through your program in ways that align with your preferences in learning, schedule,

pace, and degree of customization. There are three learning paths: GlobalTrack, ExcelTrack, and CustomTrack.

GlobalTrack

Programs on the GlobalTrack learning path are composed of traditional courses, while also allowing for the inclusion of module courses, when available. This flexibility gives you opportunities to adjust your course load and pace along your path toward degree completion. All Purdue Global programs are offered on GlobalTrack except for the Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies and Associate of Science in Professional Studies, which are offered on the CustomTrack learning path. GlobalTrack students must take at least one traditional course each term.

ExcelTrack

Programs offered on the ExcelTrack learning path are composed of module courses, with select traditional courses required. You must take all of your program's courses as module courses, unless only a traditional course fulfills a particular requirement. ExcelTrack is designed to allow students with applicable skills, professional experience, and self-direction to accelerate their pace toward earning their degree, and it uses a term-based tuition model: the more courses you complete, the greater your cost savings. ExcelTrack is best suited for students who can commit to a heavy course load and rapid pace of learning and thereby achieve savings in cost and time toward degree completion. To determine if ExcelTrack is a good fit for you, speak to your University representative. For more information on the policies governing ExcelTrack, see the academic policy (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/) section of the Catalog. For programs offered on ExcelTrack, see Programs A-Z (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/programs/#exceltracktext). Note that ExcelTrack availability for some programs may also be limited to certain academic calendars.

CustomTrack

Programs offered on the CustomTrack learning path give you the opportunity to create a degree plan that focuses on your personal and professional knowledge and skills. Working with a faculty advisor, you design your degree by assembling credits earned through a unique combination of Purdue Global courses and assessments, a Purdue Global experiential learning portfolio, and/or transfer credits from other accredited institutions. There are two program options for CustomTrack, the School of Multidisciplinary and Professional Studies' Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies and Associate of Science in Professional Studies. These programs are for students who bring extensive experience and education to achieve significant savings in cost and time toward degree completion.

CustomTrack programs exist in an independent or a term-based collegiate model. **However, effective July 1, 2026, the independent model will no longer be accepting enrollments or reentries.**

- The **independent model** is a degree-completion option that is highly flexible and utilizes a mostly self-paced format. This model supports your career and personal aspirations by providing the opportunity to progress at a pace that works with your lifestyle. The independent model also has flexible parameters that allow you to select from Purdue Global course options, as well as providing you with the ability to earn credit from course partnerships that offer online open learning course opportunities during your program.
- The **term-based model** utilizes a format similar to GlobalTrack; the program is composed of traditional courses, and it also allows for the inclusion of module courses, when available. This flexibility gives you opportunities to adjust your course load and pace along your path toward degree completion and to select term-based courses that fit your professional goals and interests. Students choosing the term-based model for their CustomTrack program must take at least one traditional course each term.