

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/leveraging-moocs-for-credit-granting-institutions/>

This video discusses the role of community colleges in the American educational system, highlighting their importance for students who are not ready for traditional four-year universities. It details a study initiated in 2012 by MIT and Harvard, which formed edX, a consortium offering Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) aimed at providing free, self-paced educational opportunities worldwide. The initiative received significant media attention, being dubbed "the year of the MOOCs," with discussions surrounding its potential to destabilize higher education.

The study aimed to examine how MOOC resources could be utilized in community colleges, specifically focusing on a popular MIT course, "Introduction to Computational Thinking," delivered through a blended learning model. This video involved adapting the course for community college students while maintaining its academic rigor. Research included pre- and post-surveys, interviews, and analysis of student engagement with the course materials.

Findings revealed that students enrolled at community colleges were successful in navigating this challenging course, with a considerable percentage passing their midterm exams. The research showed that a solid prior experience in programming significantly increased the likelihood of success among students. The data indicated that traditional credit-granting institutions could successfully integrate MOOC content into their curricula, enhancing learning opportunities for students.

Ultimately, the initiative showcased the potential for democratizing education and increasing equity through innovative resources, although it also reflected on the challenges and disparities faced by different student demographics based on their backgrounds and previous experiences. The study ended with reflections on the evolving landscape of education and the importance of striking a balance between traditional and innovative educational approaches.