

Departmental Digital Learning Strategy

In its July 2014 Final Report, the Institute-Wide Task Force on the Future of MIT Education¹ offers recommendations on how MIT can continue to transform education for future generations of learners both on campus and beyond. The report discusses the need for innovation and experimentation in pedagogy, course design, interdisciplinary collaboration, and much more. Many of the opportunities for such innovation will be enabled or supported by technology.

In this spirit, MITx is channeling more of its financial and staffing resources toward strategic proposals that align with institutional and departmental digital learning priorities while shifting away from one-off projects. We therefore encourage departments to develop a digital learning strategy if they do not already have one.

Each department's digital learning strategy will be different, specific to its curricular goals. A departmental strategy may address technology-enabled pedagogical innovation such as blended learning, teaching/learning tools, student assessment, and a host of other instructional elements. It should outline a vision for its offerings of online course modules and MOOCs for development on Residential MITx and MITx on edX. Some plans may contemplate a cooperative effort with other departments. Plans typically include a timeline and estimate of resources.

Departmental Digital Learning Strategy - Model Outline

- I. Summary of departmental digital learning strategy
 - A. Description/key elements
 - B. Alignment with departmental strategic goals
 - C. Alignment with Institute priorities (see Task Force recommendations)
- II. Current state of digital learning in the department
 - A. Residential courses with digital learning components (digital features, tools, platforms used, etc.)
 - B. Global MOOCs (MITx on edX; existing and under development)
 - C. Other
- III. Future plans
 - A. Residential and global modules/courses to be developed (with approximate timing)²
 - B. Other digital learning initiatives
 - C. Inter-departmental or external collaborations
 - D. Digital Learning Lab scientist or fellow role
- IV. Resources
 - A. Available funding and staffing
 - B. Resources needed

¹ See http://web.mit.edu/future-report/TaskForceFinal_July28.pdf

² Possible considerations:

- Which courses will advance strategic interests of the department/MIT?
- Which courses will have the greatest impact on the residential experience?
- Which courses have the largest enrollments?
- Which courses have the most digitizable content?
- Which Course Sequence best covers the departmental core?
- Can the courses be split into modules?
- Which courses have the greatest uniqueness/world value?