

Stanford Open Online Courses

Starting this coming Fall, [Understanding Language/SCALE](#) at the Stanford Graduate School of Education will offer a set of free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) sponsored by the Hewlett Foundation to help educators use innovative assessment practices—**instructionally-focused formative assessment and curriculum-embedded performance assessments** for deeper learning. These courses will focus on instructional improvement and student learning related to **both the academic standards and the English Language Proficiency standards**. Participants can develop competencies in two strands:

Strand A – Formative Assessment: Focus on Student Language

1. *Constructive Classroom Conversation (Begin in early October, 2016)*
Participants will develop a practical understanding of classroom conversations, listening closely to student-to-student discourse and using a conversation analysis tool to inform future instruction.
2. *Learning as Evidence: Improving Argumentation through Formative Assessment Practice (Begin in Winter, 2017)*
Participants will use a range of practical tools for gathering and analyzing language samples that show how students currently construct claims supported by evidence and/or reasoning.

Strand B – Building and Using Performance Assessments

1. *Designing for Deeper Learning: How to Develop Performance Tasks (Begin in early October, 2016)*
Build educators' capacities to understand and develop performance assessments that consider language and fit local contexts.
2. *Designing for Deeper Learning: How to Implement and Improve Performance Tasks (Begin in Winter 2017)*
Build educators' capacities to select, adapt, implement, and improve performance assessments that consider language and fit local contexts.

Registration for the first courses of both Strand A and B will begin in the summer. Each of the four courses will take approximately 30-40 hours of learning time. Successful completion of the assignments for each course will result in a “Statement of Accomplishment” which can be used by systems to recognize professional development units or, if graduate credit can be awarded, through the local granting institution.

An information webinar was held on May 25 at 9:00 PDT/12:00 EDT. You can now [view the recording](#), [download the slides](#), and read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

There will be three webinars in the summer to **help school, district, or state facilitators to provide local support to their educators**. Individual teachers are welcome to attend, of course, and share the information with their colleagues.

- **Setting up a successful hybrid MOOC model: June 28 at 11:00 AM Pacific Time**
- **Digging deeper into fall course content: August 9 at 11:00 AM Pacific Time**
- **Navigating the MOOC platform, NovoEd: September 20 at 11:00 AM Pacific Time**

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us at hsiaolin@stanford.edu.