

What is Moodle and What Are Its Features?

Moodle, a distance learning tool, is a flexible and powerful way to deliver your program, catering to your audience's needs. Moodle can be used to deliver your entire program, or combined with meetings, lectures, field experiences, labs, webinars, videoconferences, and other delivery methods - depending on your program needs.

Moodle can be used for internal staff development, to present programs to the public, or to provide secure offerings to select or restricted audiences.

Moodle's "modular" approach allows you to select the features which best meet your delivery needs. Selected features include:

- **Communication features:** chats, on-line discussions, announcements, calendars, email to or among participants, RSS feeds, and collaborative projects.
- **Evaluation features:** quizzes, assignments, activities, gradebooks with item analysis, and the ability for you and the user to track user progress.
- **Collaborative Endeavors:** glossaries, databases, group assignments, projects, shared documents and resources
- **Groups:** Groups and subgroups can be created within a Moodle course for on-line discussions, projects, activities, and to determine what sections a user sees. (For instance, you can create one course while serving the needs of 3 audiences by having a group for UNHCE staff, one for industry professionals, and third for the general public. You can allow access to sections, activities, and discussions based on group enrollment.) Participants can belong to more than one group, at the instructor's discretion.
- **Conditional activities:** Activities and items can be "hidden," and only displayed after a user has completed a prerequisite. For instance - you can design your offering so a user must complete one section before proceeding to the next section, or pass a quiz before printing a certificate.
- **External Resources:** Links to learning modules, presentations, on-line calculators, documents, Moodle-generated web pages, and relevant websites.
- **Embedding:** In addition to embedding traditional objects, such as links, you can embed YouTubes and other multimedia components
- **Secure or open access:** Various levels of security are available, all the way from open access to using passwords or instructor-approved enrollment.
- **Formats:** Courses can be organized by topic or presented using a weekly or social format. Multiple layers of items can be accessed from your course's "front page."

For further information on Moodle, or assistance designing and implementing an offering using Moodle, please contact barbara.wright@unh.edu.