



4 Types of People Who Thrive in Self-paced Learning for Their Career Which one are you?

Education isn't one-size-fits-all anymore. We live in a fast-paced, on-demand, customized world—so shouldn't your education be the same? Enter self-paced competency-based learning. Learning outcomes remain the same—transformative learning, personal growth and expanded career potential. But the delivery differs dramatically, making it more accessible to people like you who are itching to improve themselves through education.

First, what is self-paced competency-based learning?

You may have taken college courses in the past that were built on time-based systems. Competency-based learning is different. Students can demonstrate their mastery of what they already know to move on faster or spend more time learning new concepts.

“Individuals can learn in a way that works best for them,” says Mary Stephens, CEO of PrepForward. “Individuals can follow their own learning style, identify their strengths, and focus on their weaknesses.” Learn more about some of its big benefits and the types of people who thrive in this learning model.

1. The productive parent

If you’re a parent trying to build a better life for you and your family, competency-based learning may help fit school into your schedule. “Self-paced courses help working parents, because even with the best intentions, parents have to flex with their children,” explains Elizabeth Malson, president of Amslee Institute. Whether you’re fitting your studies in after bedtime or squeezing them in before soccer practice, you’ll have the opportunity to work ahead so you’re prepared when things pop up.

2. The career climber

If you’re trying to take your career to the next level, competency-based learning may be a perfect fit. “Students in these programs may find their classroom projects can actually be used at work,” explains Hadassah Yang, Associate Vice Chancellor at Brandman University. Camille Canuto of Smartsims Business Simulations recently completed a competency-based program while working. “You will need to learn how to manage your time well and learn to prioritize your tasks. This is a great skill to hone,” she says.

3. The midlife career changer

Like the career climber, you’re likely pretty busy with a jam-packed schedule. You have more wisdom and life experience that you can leverage in your learning. And you can spend more

time brushing up on the subjects you feel rusty on. "With self-paced learning, students who learn faster can move forward with the modules on their own time, while students who learn at a slower pace can take their time to understand a particular topic at their own pace," Canuto explains.

4. The nontraditional shift worker

If your schedule is unpredictable, self-paced competency-based learning programs will allow you to avoid the hassle of scheduling work around classes. You can pursue your dream career whenever it's most convenient for you. This is especially true for hospitality, nurses, emergency dispatchers, rideshare drivers and all others who have non-traditional work hours. Through self-paced learning, students can take advantage of a flexible schedule to study when they're most able to engage.

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