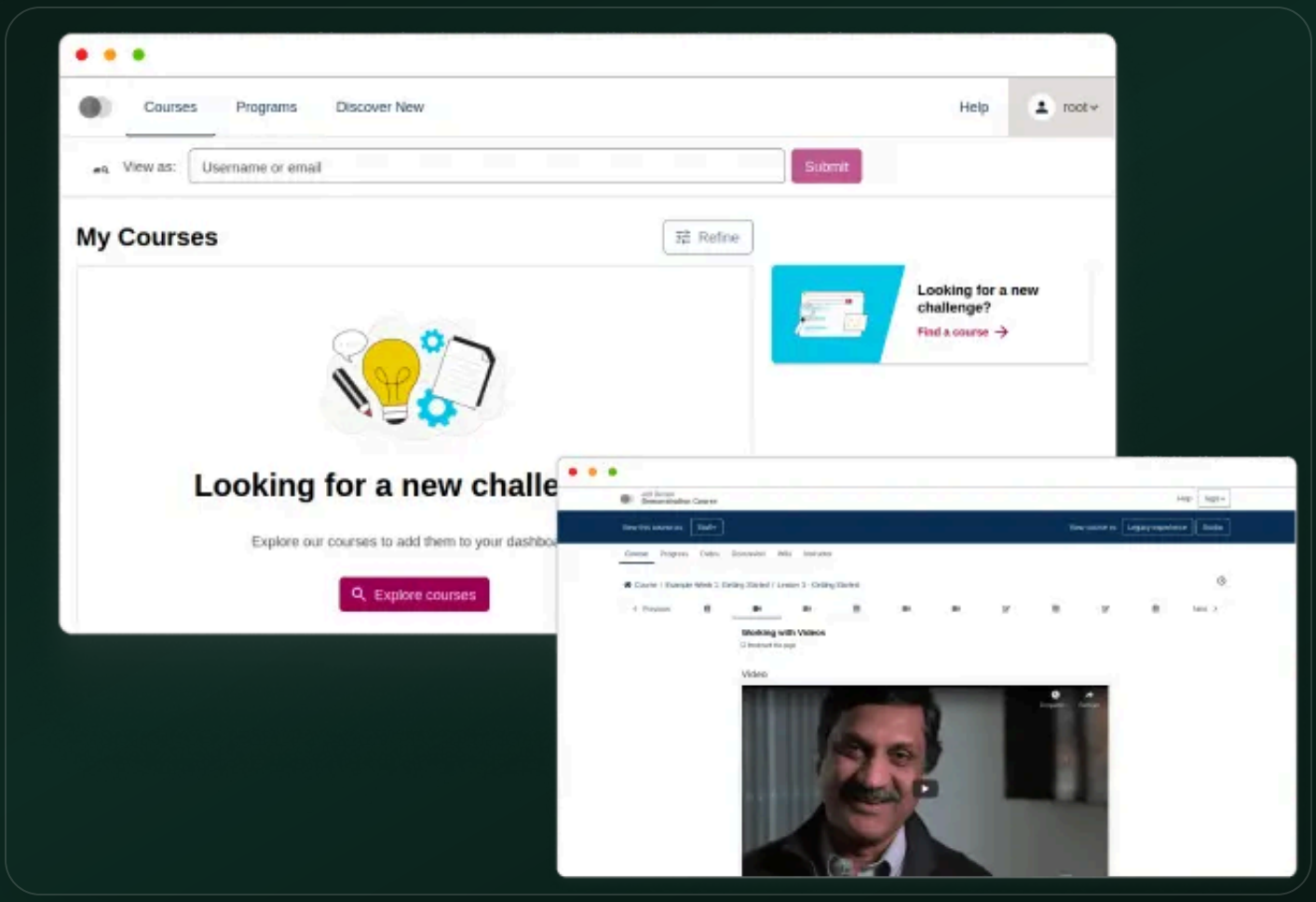
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Open edX

The Insider's Guide

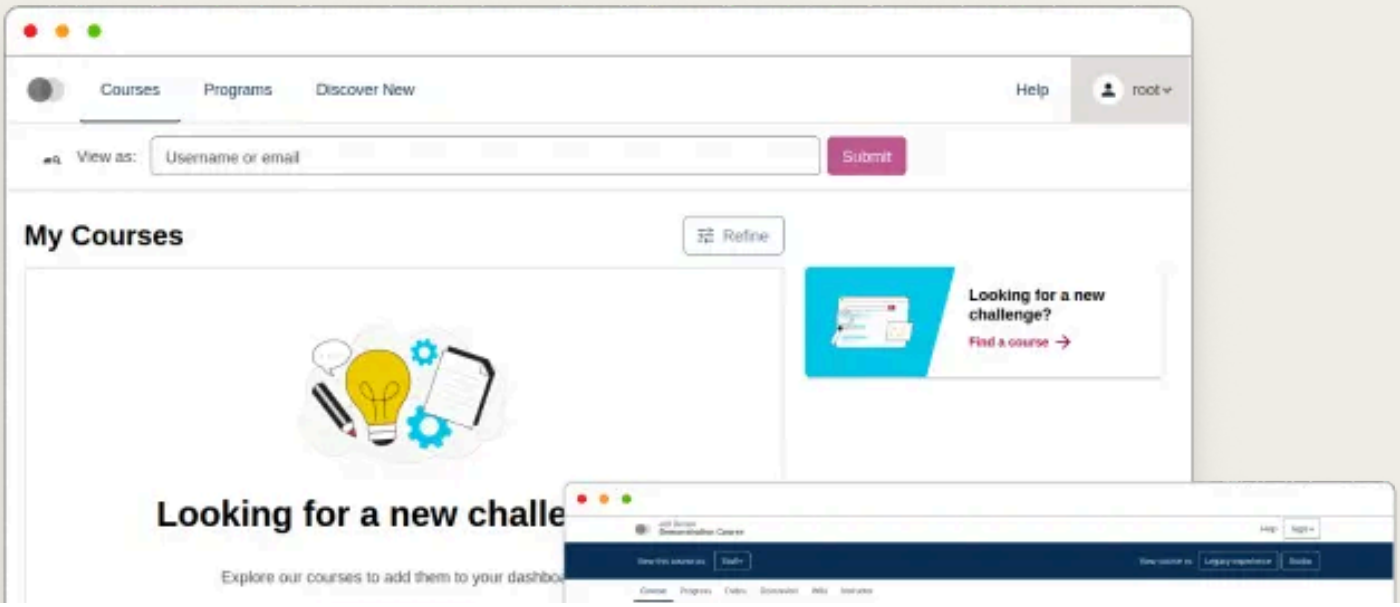
Free open-source learning platform stewarded by Axim Collaborative



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among course and community platforms, read from Open edX's own pages.

Made by Axim Collaborative · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Open edX's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Open edX's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.2

GPA, above 45 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade

Open edX is an open-source online learning platform with an LMS for learners and a CMS for course authors. The software has no license fees; organizations host it themselves or pay a provider to run it. It is stewarded by Axim Collaborative, a nonprofit founded by Harvard and MIT, and supports self-paced, instructor-led and blended courses.

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about Open edX**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **Running it means hosting, maintenance and infrastructure, either yours or a provider's.**
>
> From our report card of Open edX

1 **Best for free open-source learning at scale**

Open edX is free open-source LMS software with course authoring, analytics and SSO.

2 **It is free**

Open edX has no paid plan at all. The software is free to use under open-source licenses; hosting, infrastructure, maintenance and support are your own cost or a provider's.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **LMS and course authoring**

A learner-facing LMS with schedules, discussion boards and notifications, plus a CMS with authoring tools and reusable content blocks.

5 **Flexible course formats**

Supports self-paced, instructor-led and blended courses, with stackable content and credential pathways.

6 **Analytics**

Aspects analytics covers enrollment, progress, assessment performance, forum activity and video engagement.

7 **A 2.2 GPA, above 45 of 98**

That is against the other course and community platforms we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

Open edX is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

Open edX at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Axim Collaborative	CATEGORY Courses & Communities
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for free open-source learning at scale

Open edX is free open-source LMS software with course authoring, analytics and SSO. Running it means hosting, maintenance and infrastructure, either

yours or a provider's.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Open edX	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The software is free, but hosting costs are yours or a provider's, so this sits in the middle.
Free plan and trial	B	Free to use under open-source licenses with no per-learner fee. Hosting is your cost.
Features	B	LMS and course authoring, flexible formats, analytics, SSO and large-scale enrollment. The listing shows no gap in the core job.
Ease of use	D	Self-hosting makes setup and upkeep the organization's job. No store rating is on record.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with no integrations listed, and the pages read do not list app platforms.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Open edX is for

- ✓ Fits if you have a technical team and many learners
- ✓ Works for organizations that want to pick a hosting provider

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you can't run infrastructure, as setup and maintenance are yours
- ✗ Pricey if you pay a provider, as each sets its own prices
- ✗ Watch out: costs scale with enrollments through hosting
- ✗ Watch out: the pages read do not list mobile app platforms

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Universities and governments running large public course catalogs
- ✓ Organizations with technical teams that want full control and ownership
- ✓ Companies that prefer a hosting provider over running servers

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Self-hosting makes setup, maintenance and infrastructure entirely the organization's job.
- ⓘ Provider hosting is priced by each provider, and the vendor notes that cost and flexibility vary.
- ⓘ Costs scale with enrollments through hosting, even though there is no per-learner license fee.
- ⓘ The pages read describe learner access by browser or mobile app but do not list app platforms.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

Free

No paid plan at all

Open edX is free to use.

> **The software is free, but hosting costs are yours or a provider's, so this sits in the middle.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN EDX (SELF-HOSTED)

$0

No license fee for the software. You or a hosting provider run it; provider pricing varies.

The free plan

The software is free to use under open-source licenses; hosting, infrastructure, maintenance and support are your own cost or a provider's.

Read from openedx.org on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Free open-source learning platform stewarded by Axim Collaborative. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, AI features, reports, online courses.

> **LMS and course authoring, flexible formats, analytics, SSO and large-scale enrollment.**
>
> From our grade for features

LMS and course authoring

A learner-facing LMS with schedules, discussion boards and notifications, plus a CMS with authoring tools and reusable content blocks.

Flexible course formats

Supports self-paced, instructor-led and blended courses, with stackable content and credential pathways.

Analytics

Aspects analytics covers enrollment, progress, assessment performance, forum activity and video engagement.

SSO

Third-party sign-in through SAML and OAuth 2.0 providers such as Facebook, Google, Microsoft and LinkedIn.

Hosting choice

Self-host for full control and data ownership, or choose a listed Open edX provider to handle hosting, updates and scaling.

Large-scale enrollment

The project states support for large-scale enrollment and e-commerce, with no per-learner license fee.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Open edX is made by Axim Collaborative.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

45/98

Other course and community platforms it is graded above

Open edX's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 45 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 20.

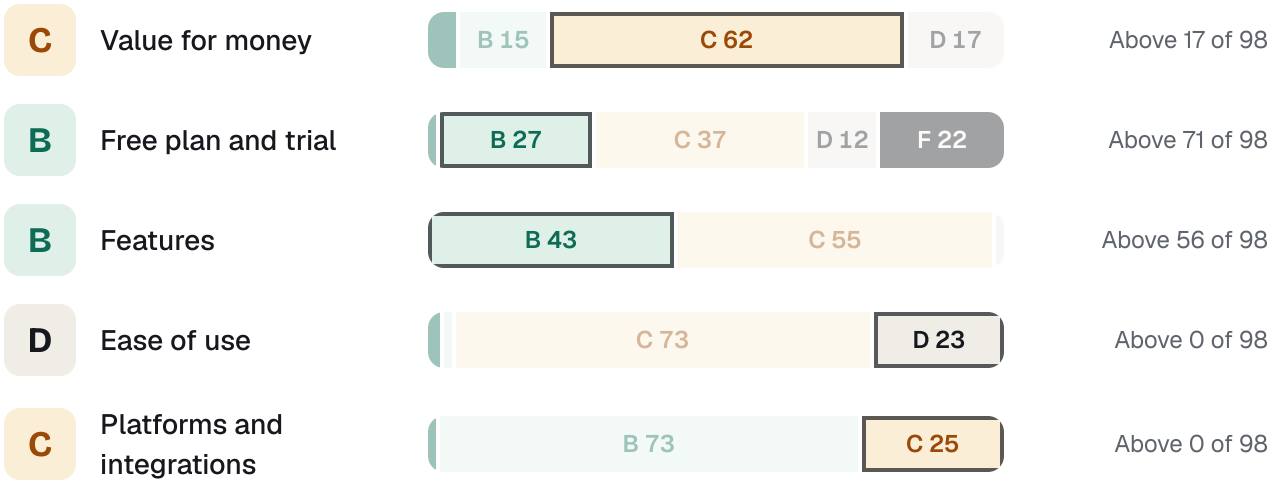
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 71 of 98) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Open edX has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

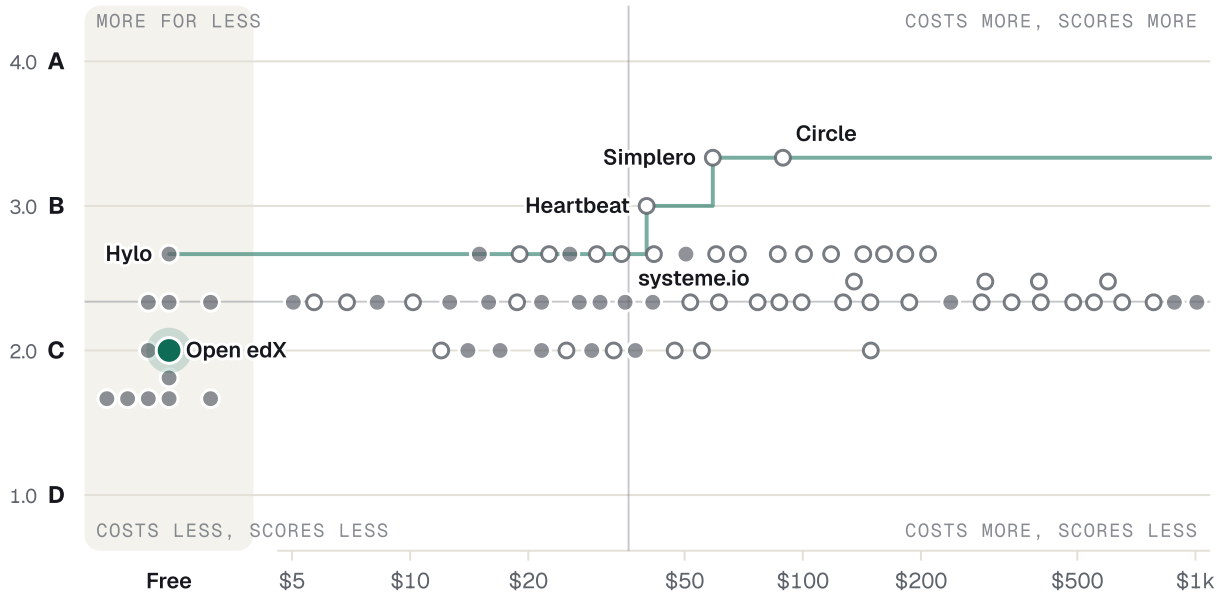
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 course and community platforms we grade, cut by the letter each got. Open edX's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 78 course and community platforms. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Open edX is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

Open edX is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could make

- Online courses and reports: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.
- What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: single sign-on.

- ✕ Sharing with other people, which means accounts and invitations.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Open edX's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Moodle, Canvas LMS, TalentLMS and Docebo

The 4 tools Open edX is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

Moodle

2.4 GPA

Free plan

Open-source learning platform you host yourself or on MoodleCloud.

- Open edX also covers reports.

Open edX and Moodle compared in full

Canvas LMS

2.6 GPA

Free plan

Instructure's LMS for schools, universities and training programs.

- Open edX is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

Open edX and Canvas LMS compared in full

TalentLMS

2.2 GPA

Free plan · from $119/mo

Cloud LMS for employee, partner and customer training.

- Open edX is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

Open edX and TalentLMS compared in full



2.0
GPA

Docebo

Paid

AI-powered learning platform for employees, customers and partners.

- Open edX has a free plan. Docebo does not.
- Open edX is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

Open edX and Docebo compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

11

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Open edX free?

Yes. Open edX is free to use.

How much does Open edX cost?

Open edX lists one plan. Open edX (self-hosted): $0.

What platforms does Open edX work on?

Open edX is available on Web.

Does Open edX have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Open edX is listed for Web.

Does Open edX have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Open edX is listed for Web.

Is Open edX open source?

Yes. Open edX is open source, according to its own site.

Who makes Open edX?

Open edX is made by Axim Collaborative.

What are the alternatives to Open edX?

The closest alternatives to Open edX in our directory are Moodle, Canvas LMS, TalentLMS and Docebo.

How does Open edX compare with other course and community platforms?

Open edX's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 45 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 20.

Is Open edX good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Open edX C for value for money. Open edX has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Open edX?

Open edX is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Open edX's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Axim Collaborative's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Axim Collaborative. Prices change, so check openedx.org before you buy.

openedx.org/get-started/
openedx.org/platform/features

openedx.org

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Open edX, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/open-edx

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Open edX: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/open-edx
```

Know someone choosing between course and community platforms?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/open-edx/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded course and community platforms after Open edX, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Courses & Communities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 course and community platforms we grade, compared

Hylo Insider's Guide

Free open-source platform for community groups and coordination

3.2 GPA

Academy LMS Insider's Guide

WordPress LMS plugin with a free core and Pro licenses by site count

2.8 GPA

Circle Insider's Guide

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Open edX's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Open edX is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Axim Collaborative. Prices and plans change: check openedx.org before you buy.