



Online Learning Opportunities Abound!

Retirement is a time for exploring and learning. A vast array of online educational opportunities await, and some are free.

Have you ever wanted to take a class at a top university, but you couldn't afford it? Are you a little bored in retirement and looking for a way to keep your brain active and engaged? Do you feel like you missed out on your educational goals, but now you have the time to pursue them? Are you looking for an interesting experience that is a little out of the ordinary, taught by someone who is at the top of their field? Not ready to end your career, but you want to work in a different field? Sounds like you're ready for online classes.

MOOC Lowers the Bar

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) movement has opened the field for learning anywhere there is high-speed internet. Often these excellent classes are offered at little or no cost, and you don't have to meet any prerequisites to sign up. You can take classes from MIT, Harvard, and Yale that you may have dreamed about but knew you could never afford. There's no driving involved, and you can often take them at your own pace.

Most of the free classes offer nothing but the satisfaction of the knowledge you gain. An added bonus may be that there is no pressure from quizzes or tests. Some, though, offer a certificate of completion, often at a nominal cost, if that's important to you. There's no limit to how many classes you can take, and you can sample a variety of classes from different universities.

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Check out this spacious, 2-bedroom home!

THE BEST DEGREES FOR ACTIVE ADULTS

Maintaining a lifelong love of learning is beneficial for everyone, especially for those of us exploring the best degree after 60.

Not ready to retire yet? Thinking about starting something new? Here are some of the top online associate degree programs today for active seniors:

- **Accounting**
- **Art**
- **Child Development**
- **Museum Technician**
- **Proofreader**
- **Psychology**
- **Real Estate Sales**
- **Tax Preparers**



Where to Start

Ground zero is the [edX website](#), an online clearinghouse created in 2012 that is the joint brainchild of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. Their vision: “As a mission-driven organization, we’re relentlessly pursuing our vision of a world where every learner can access education to unlock their potential, without the barriers of cost or location.”

Millions of students use it every year to take over 3,000 diverse classes in subjects from negotiation to foreign languages to cloud computing. Imagine the change that so much knowledge creates — and you can be a part of it!

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Travel Learning

Make new friends while traveling far or near with a trio of offerings that combine globetrotting with learning.

Earthwatch Institute is a nonprofit that connects top scientists with laymen on its expeditions, where you’ll work on research projects and analyze data. Choose a location and project according to your interests, but read the fine print about how fit you need to be to carry it out. Pick something within your ability, then book your experience!

Oxford University Summer School for Adults is a residential summer program that offers 60 accredited courses, each a week long, over a

five-week period in central Oxford. Classes max out at 10 students of all ages studying a broad array of topics from architecture to theology. Live on campus or in town.

Road Scholar offers hundreds of educational travel adventures both inside and beyond U.S. borders. Join fellow birders, attend an archeological dig, ride a camel in Egypt ... opportunities abound. Lodgings are usually comfortable but not high-end, and trips invariably emphasize learning paired with related destinations.

See article on page 3 for more info.



Member Testimonials

“We travel several times throughout the year and enjoy the security of leaving the Village with no cares about mail, papers, plant care or maintenance while we are gone. Also, I had used my mower and snow blower very effectively over the years, but now I can let somebody else take care of that for me, and I don’t miss it at all.”

Dick and Sharon R.

“The co-op makes real sense because you have no worries about safety, security, maintenance, etc. I’ve visited other Village Cooperatives and was delighted to find that the residents love their new homes. I really don’t know what more a person could ask for with this lifestyle.”

Bob H.

QUARTERLYQUOTE

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.

— Michael Altshuler

Let's Travel!

As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, active adults are looking for places to go and things to do.



At long last, travel appears to be opening, and seniors are among those eager to take advantage of this renewed freedom. We are ready to put on our walking shoes and get the heck out of Dodge! While there are many forms of travel, it is nice to have a group to go with, and just plain wonderful for someone else to handle all the planning and preparation. With that in mind, here are 10 travel companies (in no particular order) that either specialize in planning trips for older adults or offer trips that will accommodate their needs.

1. [Firebird Tours](#) – Specializing in assisting clients aged 50 and up, Firebird Tours takes small groups to tour places in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, Morocco, and North America. Themes range from local cuisine, opera, history, architecture, theater, and much more in between. They will even arrange a tour just for you and your family to focus on individual preferences.
2. [Backroads](#) – This company specializes in active vacations, such as biking, walking, and hiking. They accept clients of all ages, but most are over 50, so you will have plenty of company. You can choose one of the “Dolce Tempo” tours for “relaxed pace, stylish comfort, authentic experiences, and unique access.” These include a winery tour in California via e-bike and a leisurely tour in Norway.
3. [Senior Cycling](#) – If you love traveling by bicycle, check out these small tours (a maximum of 13 participants) for ages 50 and above. Tours vary in difficulty from easy, to moderate and longer, to more challenging, advanced treks, which cover up to 50 miles per day with some hills and traffic. They can even design a custom package just for your family or group of friends.
4. [Road Scholar](#) – If you love lifelong learning, this is the outfit for you. Filled with lectures, tours, field trips, and a variety of educational experiences, this company has been in business since 1975. Check out trips to national parks, historic destinations, and cities worldwide. You can also try out their Grandparent Adventures, or even a cruise. Trips are sortable based on duration, activity level, location, price and much more.

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5. [Walking the World](#) – This company is a great choice for those who enjoy truly immersing themselves in a destination. Walking the World offers walking and hiking adventures for multi-day trips in both local and worldwide destinations. One option is an eight day excursion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, and another package offers an 11-day trip to Ireland. All trips provide full details regarding mileage and difficulty, and most participants are 50 and up.
6. [ElderTreks](#) – Geared toward those 50 and older, ElderTreks concentrates on taking small groups on unique adventures, such as wildlife safaris and cultural journeys. Their tours are rated from 1 to 5, from easy to challenging. For instance, clients at Level 1 should be able to walk a mile and hike for an hour or two.
7. [Overseas Adventure Travel](#) – Trips to every continent entice mature travelers with their flexibility and personalized itineraries. Another plus—there are getaways intended just for solo travelers, regardless of whether you are an experienced globetrotter or are just starting out. Additionally, they offer exclusive, women-only getaways, which is something that will appeal to many female adventurers.
8. [Kensington Tours](#) – For the traveler with deep pockets, Kensington specializes in personalized tours for older clients who appreciate ease and luxury. Say hello to private guides, your own vehicles, and curated cuisine while you immerse yourself in the history of a beautiful location.
9. [YMT Vacations](#) – These all-inclusive, affordable trips are fully guided and catered to convenience, meaning you will not have to do much walking. Packages cover hotels, sightseeing, baggage handling, drivers, and tour directors. Choose from destination trips to California, Hawaii, Alaska, Australia, and beyond for exciting local events such as the Rose Parade and Oberammergau, an event in Germany that occurs only once every 10 years.
10. [Country Walkers](#) – While these treks are always on foot, you get to choose the level of involvement with a guide. Your trek can be fully guided, partially guided, or totally independent. Select a trip from one of five levels starting at “easy walking,” consisting of two to four miles daily, to “challenging walking” that covers six to 14 miles from dawn to dusk. Guests of all ages are welcome on adventures, which encompass five continents.



Community Spotlight

Our local housing market is hot. If you've thought about cashing out of your house and moving into a worry-free lifestyle in a community with peers, this is your time! With so many amenities and home style options to choose from, hassle-free home ownership is within reach. **Check out our Featured Floor Plan on the next page and call us today to learn more about cooperative living and availability at this location.**

featured floor plan

Glenborough-A

1,221 sq. ft.
2 Bedroom
1 Bathroom



This home plan offers an open and spacious layout with a kitchen island and great room combo that opens to the deck. It also includes a reserved space in the heated underground parking garage as well as your own private laundry room with side by side washer and dryer, plus lots of storage! One of our most popular plans, you just can't find a better maintenance-free value in this excellent Olympia location!



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Once on the platform, you can sort by level, subject, learning institution, or type of class. You'll be learning from the best with MIT, Harvard, Caltech, the Sorbonne, Cornell, Dartmouth, Stanford and the like participating. That's right—you, too, can be an Ivy Leaguer! All of the courses are self-paced, so you can take a month or a year to finish. Studying can take place in your home, the library, your favorite coffee shop, or a combination of all three.

Another route to take is via [Coursera](#), which offers everything from one-day courses to master's degrees from such varied institutions as Rice University and the University of Sydney. There's a wide selection of free courses from both universities and companies, but be aware that degree programs and some classes have a fee.

[Udemy](#) has more than 183,000 video courses that start at \$14.99. If you have ever wanted to learn coding, web development, JavaScript, Excel, data science, or drawing, this may be the platform for you. Courses feature real reviews, often by more than 100,000 users, that are useful when narrowing down your choices.



MasterClass

In a class of its own is the renowned [MasterClass](#). These are not your typical university classes, but presentations brought to you by world-class experts in the topic. Learn about songwriting and production from Mariah Carey, or let Gordon Ramsay show you how to prepare restaurant favorites at home.

More than 100 classes are offered, each comprised of about 20 lessons of 10 minutes each. Choose from community and government, where a past president may be your instructor, or delve into writing, business, wellness, style, sports, and more. An annual subscription gives access to the whole library of classes and any new ones that launch that year for \$180.

No matter what your interest, if you want a degree or a short learning session, if you have nothing to spend or plenty, there's an educational experience out there that meets your needs.



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