
Education and learning services — Requirements for distance learning

*Éducation et services de formation — Exigences relatives aux services
d'enseignement à distance*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 232, *Education and learning services*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document is intended to provide specific requirements for distance learning services. The aims of this document are to improve transparency and enhance the credibility of distance learning services, to protect consumers by preventing prejudicial practices and to improve the quality of distance learning services for all interested parties.

The structure of this document reflects a typical sequence of experiences of learners and sponsors in prototypical distance learning services. This document is intended to be used alongside ISO 29993. Distance learning service providers (DLSP) can implement this document and ISO 29993 to ensure the consistent delivery of distance learning services.

Education and learning services — Requirements for distance learning

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for distance learning services not specified in ISO 29993.

It is applicable to any distance learning services that are addressed to learners themselves as well as to sponsors who are acquiring the services on behalf of the learners.

In cases where the distance learning services are provided by an organization that delivers other methods of learning services, this document only applies to distance learning services.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 29993:2017, *Learning services outside formal education — Service requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

distance learning services

sequence of activities, designed to enable learning, delivered while learners and facilitators are separated by time, space or both

EXAMPLE Correspondence courses, digital learning, online learning, mobile learning.

3.2

distance learning service provider

DLSP

organization or individual providing *distance learning services* (3.1), including any associates involved in the provision of the distance learning services

3.3

curriculum

course of study prepared by the *distance learning service provider* (3.2) which describes the aims, content, learning outcomes, learning and teaching methods, the amount of time required and assessment processes

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