

(Mostly) Free Leadership Resources



There are countless free courses, articles, blogs, and podcasts on management and leadership skills available online. Here is a list of just some of the more well-known ones, most of which are free:



Alison Classes
alison.com

Alison hosts a lot of great classes, but two of the best free ones are “What Great Leaders Do” and “Communication Skills: Persuasion and Motivation.” The “What Great Leaders Do” is a quick overview of some key highlights of what it takes to be a great leader. I would also encourage you to check out the other wonderful courses on this site.



Coursera
coursera.org

Coursera has a lot of great classes, some free and some paid. Search for topics such as leadership, management, or supervisor to get a slew of content. Conflict Resolution, Building Leadership Skills, and The Manager’s Toolkit are just a few offered resources that are amazing and free! I especially love the Manager’s Toolkit (*coursera.org/learn/people-management*), which is free and has a 95% approval rating.



Future Learn
futurelearn.com

This site offers many free leadership training resources. There is also a paid subscription that provides access to unlimited learning. There are a lot of fantastic classes, so be sure to check it out.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
ocw.mit.edu/courses

Yes, that is correct, a free class from MIT! Use the link I provided and in their general search box type in “Sloan School.” Usually, the link to their free management class is the first one listed. You can also search for “MIT Building and Leading Effective Teams” and locate it that way. This class is offered by MIT’s Sloan School of Management and is a one-week course on effective leadership. It is open-sourced, so when you get to the page, if you look at the far left-hand side, you will see a button to download the course material. They do recommend that you purchase some supplemental readings, but you can just search online to find some of the answers and help you need to complete the course.



Master Class Management *masterclassmanagement.com*

If you are a manager thinking of promoting someone into a leadership role, this is a pretty intensive online class that is free. Each topic has sub-points and a quiz at the end of each section. You could require this course for any new employee in a leadership role. If you are considering a leadership role or recently received one, then take the course! You can see what the topics are, so if you know you are struggling with a specific topic, you could just pick out that topic to study rather than go through the entire intensive course.



MindTools *mindtools.com*

This is a great site offering courses and materials. Click on “Skill Area” and filter the areas you want to learn more about. You can join its “Club” for a fee, but much content can be accessed without joining.



Open Learn *open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue*

This site offers a series of leadership and management courses that are available online and free to anyone. They range from how to manage people to communication skills.



TED Talks *ted.com/topics/leadership*

I am addicted to TED talks. I think that they are amazing little snippets of information and education. You get so much information in such a short period from some of the best leaders in the industry. The link I provided helps to direct you to the talks that are focused on leadership.



Udemy *udemy.com*

Some courses you need to pay for on this great site, but others are free such as one on how to mentor others. Search for “Mentor for Impact.” This course reviews how a leader needs to be a mentor and provides a good overview of what it means to help others through coaching and mentoring. You can search for hundreds of other courses on this site and set the filter to free so it will pick out those that cost nothing. I would also encourage you to consider a subscription to the site so you can continue to learn.

Veterinary Hospital Management Association (VHMA)



vhma.org

This is a great site offering valuable resources for anyone in a hospital leadership role. While the site is focused on practice managers and hospital administrators, all leadership can find countless tools here. The site is home to the Certified Veterinary Practice Manager (CVPM) Certification. There is also a yearly subscription fee to access most content. However, the subscription fee doesn't give you access to everything. Some of their lecture series and leadership courses cost an additional fee. You don't need to be a CVPM or interested in becoming one to join, but if you are a practice manager or thinking of becoming one, this is a great site for you.