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HMMM: Omnicademy Will Offer Course Syndication, for Credit

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(Source: Hack Education)

It was bound to happen. A company has made the move to offer course syndication, with credit — a portal where a student can log in and see what other online classes are available through partner univerisities where s/he can actually get credit for course completion.

The Chronicle reports today on Omnicademy, a spin-off from Louisiana State University, that will let professors upload their course materials and offer the material to students from other universities.

From the article:

Universities can review the courses and decide which ones they want to adopt and offer credit for. When students log into Omnicademy —using a .edu e-mail address—they will only be allowed to select from courses that have been approved by their institution.

If a student wishes to take a course offered through Omnicademy that is not on the list approved by his or her university, Omnicademy will negotiate on behalf of that student with the university, [Stacey Simmons, associate director for economic development at Louisiana's Center for Computation and Technology] added.

According to the article, Omniacademy has applied for VC funding and "a number of high profile grants." But the obstacle, as Simmons admits in the article, is getting schools on board. Currently you can sign up for Omniacadmy if you attend Louisiana State University, Harvard University, Cambridge University, or Brooks Institute.

An interesting quotation from Simmons, particularly in light of MIT and open education: ""Everybody is happy to share their content, but not very many people are willing to give credit."

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