



E-Learning, The future of Structural Engineering Education?

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Abstract

In last years, the traditional blackboard teaching has been supplemented by visual aids like slide projectors and videos. The phenomenal growth of the Internet has brought in new teaching media, such as E-learning. Online courses and multimedia material over the Internet open the educational experience up to distant students without schedule restrictions, making E-learning an attractive option especially for professionals. Nevertheless, the overwhelming amount of material currently available might complicate the offer selection. Furthermore, internet globalization makes that quality levels of these materials might differ significantly. Aware of these problems, IABSE created the E-Learning board to address conveniently the online learning in structural engineering. Recently, the Association has created a new platform that aims to become a leader in quality online education. As a way to promote the use of this platform, the E-learning board proposes a debate focused on how the future of structural engineering education is linked with the different kinds of E-learning in both academia and industry training.

Keywords: Structural Engineering Education; IABSE; E-Learning; MOOCS.

1 Introduction

Throughout history, traditional teaching, in which a professor led the learning of the students in a classroom, has been the most common educational methodology and any other type of learning was questionable at best. In fact, this

model has been traditionally applied at all stages of our education, in which the physical presence is a no-brainer. Despite that traditional learning has been quite straight forward, some variations have appeared in the last years. For example, since the 90s, some practical disciplines (such as medicine or engineering), complement traditional teaching