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How to Create your first Course

It's important to make sure you're engaging your students with a well-structured, practical, and rewarding course experience. The most successful instructors spend time planning their course before diving into filming to ensure their course will help students achieve clear goals.

Step 1:
Choose your course topic.

Pick something you're experienced in and genuinely excited about.

Step 2:
Define your target student and course goals.

Before you begin creating content for your course, it's important to determine who you are teaching and where you want to take your students by the end of your course.

Step 3:
Decide how students will practice what you're teaching.

Toppa students love being hands-on with their learning: they want to practice what they've learned through exercises, activities, case studies, and more! If you have templates for exercises, a relevant fact sheet or quiz these should be shown on screen as a screen recording and included as downloadable content within your course.

Step 4:
Create your course outline.

All Toppa courses should be broken down into 5 – 10 bitesize videos. Each video should be no more than 10 minutes in length. Your course outline is the foundation for your course--this is where you decide how you will structure and visualize your content. We have an outline template that can help you get started!

Step 5:
Script your course.

Once you know how your course will be structured, the next step is to prep for filming your lectures. Most instructors find that scripting each lecture (or writing bullet point notes) helps to reduce filming time and increases the smoothness of their delivery.

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FAQs

What are the components of a course?
A Toppa course can consist of a combination of videos, slides, text, quizzes, coding exercises, assignments, and practice tests.

You can also add additional resources to your course, including: PDFs, links, audio files, etc. These components are structured into sections and lectures (sections are groups of lectures).

How long should my course be?
The only length requirement for a course is that it must be at least 30 - 50 minutes in total. Toppa courses feature 10 videos and each video is around 3 – 5 minutes long.

Your course should be as long as it takes to fully teach your topic and allow your students to achieve the course goals. You can also take a look at other courses in your category to get a sense for the average course length of similar courses.

How much time does it take to create a course?
Course creation time varies greatly depending on the length of the course and an instructor's time commitment.

Many of our content partners complete their courses within a couple of days planning and scripting, one day of filming, and a day of editing (which Toppa will do for you).

Do students want quizzes, assignments, and worksheets?
Yes! Our students love to practice and apply what they are learning.

Practice activities can be anything that makes a student apply their learning, not just quizzes or worksheets.

Are there any course requirements? What are they?
Courses must contain at least 30 minutes of content, include 1 or 2 instructional videos, 7 lectures, and a summary video (totalling 10 videos).

Videos must be HD quality. See here for a complete list of the minimum course requirements.