Khan Academy

Curriculum Applications

AT-A-GLANCE

Grades: PreK-College

Best Used as: Curricular Supplement, Homework Support, Independent Practice

Languages: 50+ available

Access: Desktop/Browser/Mobile App

Standards Alignment: Common Core, State, NWEA with Frequent Content Updates

"With practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard, Khan Academy empowers learners to study at their own pace, both in and out of the classroom. Khan Academy focuses on skill mastery to help learners build the strong foundations they need to succeed in higher education and in their careers"

DESIGN & STRUCTURE

- Feels like a virtual workbook
- Minimal distractions on problem pages
- Organized by grade level PreK-8, with higher level math courses organized by subject name
- Units include content/topics, and lessons detail specific skills within the unit to work on
- Students may be assigned/choose to start on a specific lesson, or can utilize a diagnostic test ("Course Challenges" of ~30 questions to assess what students already know)
- Each unit includes a mix of video and written lessons, accompanied by practice problems
- Space on the screen is provided for completing calculations, with access to special numeric keys (e.g. square root, straight fraction/division symbols, exponents)

GRADING

- Students earn "mastery points" by completing problem sets, periodic quizzes, and unit tests.
  - Each skill is worth 100 mastery points (Scores of 50 = familiar, 80 = proficient, 100 = mastery)
  - Mastery is intentionally challenging to encourage deeper engagement and understanding
- Additional gamified/awarding features include:
  - "Energy points" (achieved for watching videos, practicing problems, and completing tasks)
  - "Badges" (awarded for desirable behaviors such as earning points, or completing mastery)
  - Avatar creation (students craft an avatar to represent themselves)

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Center for Effective School Practices

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Khan Academy
Curriculum Insights/Considerations

INSIGHTS/TIPS

- The flexibility and program options within a grade level allows institutions and educators the ability to choose a sequence that fits their needs. This can also help educators in filling in gaps, especially if time is limited or the school has less than the standard number of days.
- Where Khan Academy courses used to consist of video lessons followed by a series of related practice problems, they have spent a lot of time adapting their problem-types to better incorporate the visual models and math manipulatives that students use in classrooms.
- Instructional support is provided throughout practice problems, not just when a student gets a problem incorrect.
- Content is updated several times a year. Should students' Mastery level within a course be impacted by new or revised content, they will receive an alert within the course that will detail further information on the impact to their Mastery score, and which additional skills they may need to complete.
- Activity overview reports provide information to educators regarding student performance. Within the provided 'breakdown of skills worked on' in which educators can see skills that were attempted, familiar, proficient, and mastered; allowing educators to follow up with further assignments.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Some of the report pages are visually busy and can be challenging for students who are doing independent coursework to navigate or understand.
- The scratchpad tool is great for students who don't have access to pencil and paper, but a student's work disappears when they move back to insert an answer on the problem screen.
- As with any platform that aims to incorporate game-like features for greater user engagement, the tracking of avatars, badges, and energy points can be distracting for some students.