

Learning Lab Vision

Learning Is Integral To Human Thriving

Learning is integral to human flourishing. We all have needs and desires. To achieve them, we set goals. Reaching those goals often requires learning: getting a degree to get a better-paying/more satisfying job, learning to cook to become healthier, or learning to draw for self-expression. Learning is often difficult, inaccessible, or expensive. So we settle for entertainment.

Making Learning Accessible

When I want to learn something, I would like to:

- Be able to start now.¹
- Go somewhere where people can guide me, lead by example, and do it with me.
- Learn in the most efficient way and progress fast.²
- Get real mastery and learn the best there is.
- Learn as much or as little as I want.³

The Learning Lab Answer

- **Availability:** Because each student pair can work on another mini-lesson, a learning lab allows students to learn a wide range of mini-lessons. A learning lab can cater to different levels of students, students starting, or students in the middle. Schools/teachers can offer more sessions because they appeal to more students.
- **Pointability:** Having the curriculum laid out in mini-lessons, I can point to specifically what I want to learn. And the curriculum tells me what prerequisites I need specifically for my learning goals. I can ask my mentoring student specifically for what I want/need.
- **Effective path to mastery:** Because the instructors thought through the learning journey holistically, the curriculum is going to guide me better. Because I work on the next mini-lesson I need, I avoid wasting time. Because I learn directly from a more advanced student, they can guide me effectively and give me personal feedback. The teaching component is an important part of testing and deepening my learning.

¹ Classes often start on a certain date or on a certain time. Some subjects and higher levels can be very hard to find classes for.

Books: It can be hard to find the right book. They might have prerequisites that I don't have. The introduction may meander over topics that I don't care about.

Private sessions: Private sessions are expensive. It can be hard to find people and know who's qualified.

² Classes are often not structured to be the most efficient for the student, e.g. one-size-fits all drop in classes, lots of passive learning (= lectures).

³ If you take a class, you often have to learn everything the class offers. If you get beyond beginner level, it gets harder and harder to find classes that cater to your level.

- **As much or as little as I want:** Because learning sessions are 1:1 and I follow my own curriculum progression, I can learn a specific cooking recipe without a full cooking course or I can go all the way to becoming a BJJ black belt.
- **Doing it with people:** Learning in a group is key for motivation. There is so much intangible learning that happens between people in conversation and from seeing each other's examples. It's a lot more fun to do things with people.

Imagine

- **Learning available at every corner:** Instead of going to a local bar or watch TV after work, we could go to a place and learning something that we are passionate about. We wouldn't have to commit to an intense two-hour class when we are tired after work. Instead, we could show up, pick something that is next for us and learn a bite for fifteen minutes. Then we might relax a bit to enjoy the atmosphere. And then we might want to go for another learning bite.
- **Unlock people:** When we meet people, they are a bit like a closed door at first. We know nothing about them. Yet behind that door is a store of knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Picture a subway car full of people and how many experts there are and how varied their subject expertise is. If you only knew what they could help you with, they might make a big difference for you. And you could probably return it in some way. On that subway car, if you pulled up the Learning Lab app, it might flash you that there is an economics professor on the train car. And your next mini-lesson is to learn about the production frontier. It would make for a fun and engaging 15-minute subway ride.
- **Vastly spread learning:** There are swath of rural regions in the world, where people lack reading skills and other basic skills to participate in the modern economy and its living standard. There is a lack of skilled educators and a lack of funding. Learning Labs are a low-cost way to make student mentors effective. Imagine someone traveling to another village to learn mini-lessons and then bringing them back to his/her village to teach. From there, it could spread further. Or a lot of us could benefit from cooking skills to have healthier, cheaper, and tastier meals. Imagine a curated curriculum of fun, innovative cooking lessons that are easy to spread from friend to friend.

How

That can be achieved by making learning more economical by making peer-teaching effective. The curriculums provide a modular structure for instructors to plan out the learning journey. You get the combination of instructor intelligence for how to learn the subject and the individual learning attention from peers. And an app takes care of connecting people and guiding people's progress.