

## Designing and Evaluating an Online Learning Community that Integrates Formal and Informal Learning

### Comparing the Affordances of Social Media Tools to Support the Online Learning Community

I used Google+ to host the online learning community. However, Google+ is no longer available for a free use. Thus, I created this table to help educators interested in designing a similar online learning community to identify the best learning tool based on the features listed in the first column.

Learning Communities Features	Google+ Community	Facebook	LinkedIn	Pinterest	Slack
Free access	★	★	★	★	★
About the group feature	★	★	★	★	★
Group rules feature	/	★	★	/	/
Private and public individual profiles	★	★	★	/	/
Private and public group	★	★	★	★	★
Computer/cellphone compatible	★	★	★	★	★
Restricted posts/comments to members	★	★	★	★	★
Inviting people	★	★	★	★	★
Questions to pending members	/	★	/	/	/
Notifications	★	★	/	★	★
Configured reminders to read posts	/	/	/	/	★
Text and multimedia content sharing	★	★	★	★	★
Screen sharing	/	★	/	/	/
Group file sharing	★	★	/	/	★
Private file sharing	★	★	★	/	★
Commenting on posts	★	★	★	★	★
Liking posts	★	★	★	★	★
Mention people in posts	★	★	★	★	★
Content re-sharing	★	★	★	★	★
Creating polls	★	★	/	/	★
Creating events	★	★	/	/	★

Linking groups	/	★	/	/	/
Searchable group posts by hashtags	/	/	★	/	★
Searchable group posts by topic	★	★	/	/	★
Searchable group posts by date	/	★	/	/	★
Searchable group posts by a person	★	★	/	/	★
Searchable relevant people	★	★	★	★	/
Following people for updates	★	★	★	★	/
Organized posts via tags/channels	★	★	/	★	★
Organized posts via date	/	★	/	/	/
Saving posts	★	★	★	★	★
Organizing saved posts	/	★	/	★	★
Voice conferencing	/	★	/	/	/
Video conferencing	/	★	/	/	/
Apps integration	★	★	★	/	★
Adjustable posts formatting views	/	★	/	★	/
Private messages (two people)	★	★	★	★	★
Synchronous group chatting	/	★	/	★	★

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