

One-Time Course Decision Checklist

Decide if a course is worth buying once — or if free resources already cover it.

Before you buy

- Can I audit free on Coursera / edX / YouTube first?

- Does my library offer LinkedIn Learning, Gale, or similar?

- Will I finish in 90 days? If not, will I still use lifetime access?

- Is the credential required — or just the skill?

Course comparison

Option	Cost	Time to complete	Credential?	Free alternative

Decision

Buy once	Audit free	Skip — not needed now