

August New Releases!

Jumpstart your learning with new courses! Below are just a few SkillSoft resources available to you starting this month. And, as always, you can **add to your knowledge at no cost to you, 24/7!**

Add exciting titles to your To-Do List today!

Communication Curriculum

+ [Professional Networking Essentials: Finding Opportunities To Make Connections](#) (1 hour)

In the modern business environment, knowing the essentials of professional networking is a major asset and key for success. Networking is all about people and making beneficial connections that will help you build a stable and fulfilling career. Poor networking skills can create roadblocks for you. However, with the right techniques, the impact of a well-developed professional network can help make you more effective at work. This course demonstrates the basics of establishing a relationship through networking.

+ [Professional Networking Essentials: Developing Confidence](#) (1 hour)

Why can some people walk into a room and start making new acquaintances almost immediately? It's as if they're hardwired to know how to introduce themselves and establish a relationship with everyone they meet. The reality is that while networking may seem intimidating or awkward at first, it's becoming a 'must have' for many in the modern professional environment. It requires confidence and sincerity. This course helps you develop that confidence by exploring the obstacles that deter you from networking. It also demonstrates how to prepare for effective networking and how to make a good first impression.

Personal Development Curriculum

+ [The Value of Peer Relationships](#) (1 hour)

Positive interpersonal professional relationships play a key role in determining individual and organizational success. The bond between peers is the most basic relationship element in any organization, and it can stunt efforts for success or stimulate efforts that flourish. This course examines the benefits of positive peer relationships. It also explores how individuals can cultivate peer relationships that can make an organization more collaborative and competitive.

+ [Developing Strategic Peer Relationships in Your Organization](#) (1 hour)

Developing a supportive peer network can provide you with access to a wide variety of expertise and institutional knowledge and it enables you to leverage other people's networks. Because every workplace has its own dynamic, you need to develop a better awareness of your environment. This course explores how you can identify the peers in your organization who are especially important in meeting your goals and it shows you how to develop solid, mutually beneficial relationships with these people.

+ [Forming Peer Relationships and Alliances at Work](#) (1 hour)

Developing a healthy network of peers you trust plays a major role in your success at work. Cultivating these relationships requires awareness, skills, and technique. It's an ongoing exercise in demonstrating social skills and an interest in the success of others. This course explores how to leverage social and communication skills in building peer relationships. And it demonstrates how to build peer support networks and how to collaborate with peers toward a common goal.

Leadership Curriculum

+ [Creating and Maintaining a Positive Work Environment](#) (1 hour)

Leaders play a vital role in establishing and maintaining a positive work environment. It's leaders who foster the work atmosphere. Leaders can help counteract a negative environment, and create a positive one by communicating honestly, respecting and supporting others, and maintaining a good attitude themselves. This course introduces some best practices for creating a positive work environment.

Internet and Network Technologies

+ [Introducing Cloud Computing](#) (1.5 hours)

This course explores the evolution and definition of cloud computing and cloud services. It provides a basic technology overview of the concepts and strategies emerging from the cloud and aims to provide the background needed to determine if and how cloud products and services can improve traditional business processes.

HR Compliance

+ [Union Awareness](#) (1 hour)

The proposed Employee Free Choice Act and recent decisions by the National Labor Relations Board have sparked a renewed focus on labor unions and their role in the modern workplace. This course will provide an overview of workers' rights under the various US labor laws, as well as employers' rights and obligations with respect to union activity. Please note that the course materials and content are for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice.

As with all AgLearn resources, these are available to all USDA employees at no cost to you!

+ [Click here for a complete list of the August releases!](#)