

# Nomad Academy - An Introduction for Students

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V3, September 2022

Welcome to Nomad Academy! We're glad to see you have an interest in learning how to use media as a tool for making disciples. Our hope is that these courses will help you start creating media that will get the attention of seekers and help them make a life-changing decision to become followers of Christ!

Now that you are enrolled, here are some helpful things to know about this site and what you can do to make this learning experience as good as possible.

## **My Dashboard:**

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to access your courses, groups, forums, and any notifications that may be shared within the system. This is also where you can create a profile which will help you track any documents and photos involved in your coursework.

## **Sign Up for Groups:**

There are several groups already formed in the Groups pages, and each student is encouraged to subscribe to those which may fit your situation. As new groups are formed, you may receive an invitation to join: you can decide to get involved with any invitations you like.

## **Browse the Forums:**

There are other topical forums within the website which you can join, depending on your interests. Many of these are related to specific courses within the website and will help answer questions about your assignments or other project-related issues you may experience. Feel free to join and follow any which get your attention.

## **Course Progress:**

Once you start Course I, the lessons and topics are in a specific order. This requires you to finish each lesson or topic and mark it complete before you are able to move on to the next lesson or topic. At the end of each course, you will receive an email to confirm you have completed the work required. A certificate of completion will be sent for your records or to share with future employers or ministry partners.

## **Notes:**

Within each lesson or topic, there is a link to the **Take Notes** app on the right side of the page. This app will allow you to take notes as you go through the lessons. You can save these notes as Microsoft Word documents for future reference. By default, they will be downloaded to your device using the name of the lesson or topic so you can find them easier in the future.

## **Assignments:**

Many of the lessons include assignments which will give you hands-on, practical experience doing what you've learned. These assignments are often one of many steps that will be needed in creating a completed project strategy, story, or distribution plan. In other words, you will be building your final project as you go through each assignment. Pay attention to the instructions and do your best work on each assignment.

Here are some additional items related to the assignment work for the courses:

**Assignment Uploading:** When a lesson includes an assignment, there will be a link at the bottom of the page which you will use to upload the assignment. The acceptable file formats for your assignments include **doc, txt, jpg, png, pdf, mp4, and mov**. The file size limit is 32 MB. Your assignment will be reviewed, and you will receive a notification of the points you earned for the assignment. After your assignment has been approved, you will also be able to move forward to the next lesson in the course.

**Points Earned:** Each assignment can earn you up to 10 points toward the completion of the course. If you are not happy with the score of an assignment, you can revise and resubmit your work to your coach for re-evaluation. The coach is able to increase your point score as much as needed.

**Assignments Required:** Most assignments are required to move forward to the next lesson. However, some lessons include an assignment but do not require you to upload it to move on to the next lesson. It is important to still do these assignments because they will be used later in the course.

### **You're not alone!**

These courses have been created to help you learn one process for using media as a tool for ministry. Rather than just expect you to read and understand this process, we have created two helpful ways for you to get help when you need it.

**Coaches:** There are many successful ministries using this process, and we work with people around the world to serve as coaches to help you as you learn. Each student will be assigned a regional coach who will walk with you through this material. They will watch your progress, review your assignments, and offer helpful advice as you go. Any questions you have about the content can be sent directly to them. The coach will help you do your best as you work through the courses.

**Mentors:** When you first enrolled, you gave us the name of a local person who you thought could help give you advice and direction for your ministry work. They will see your progress and give you helpful insights as you work on your projects. They will also be aware of the needs in your area and will direct your attention toward ways to reach your ministry goals. The mentor will be your best friend as you begin to learn this new kind of ministry.

### **Equipment:**

We know that this media course will require you to have some basic equipment to produce the video content you will use in your outreach efforts. The starting point for a video production system can be as simple as a current smartphone that has a high-resolution video camera. As you will learn in **Course III - Shooting**, creating good videos might require adding a few upgrades to your equipment list. Nomad Academy understands that the cost of this upgrade could be a challenge for some of our students. For this reason, we recommend that you talk to your coach to explore options that will help you complete your projects well. They can listen to your needs and suggest ways to fill them.

**Production Kits:** As a starting point, a smartphone works well to capture video and can serve as the primary piece of equipment for your media projects. But adding a few simple items will improve the quality of your work. These upgrades include a smartphone rig (mount), a directional or lapel microphone, a camera light, tripod, and earphones. We recommend that you start with these items for your video assignments. (More information about the options to consider will be provided in **Course III - Shooting**.)

## **Future Projects:**

Once you have completed the four courses in Nomad Academy, you will be able to apply for additional funds which can be used for future projects. This might include funds to upgrade your equipment to a more advanced level. The grant may also be used to cover the costs of a specific project or campaign. For example, production costs for creating a video or funds to advertise your posts in social media campaigns may be needed. The application process will encourage you to work closely with your local mentor and ministry partners to create a plan which will reach specific goals and objectives. Details about these grants and about becoming an official Nomad team will be shared with you once you complete all courses.

## **Welcome to Nomad Academy!**

We're glad you have enrolled to learn how to use media as a tool for ministry. The courses will give you some very helpful, real-world advice on how to plan and complete a media outreach strategy that will find and engage seekers. Our hope is that you will begin to pray for those who will be reached through your efforts. Ask God to bless your time of study and help you learn as much as possible while you take these courses.

Questions? Contact us at [admin@nomadacademy.org](mailto:admin@nomadacademy.org)

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