

Communities of Practice in Higher Education

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Starting your CoP

The three main structural elements of CoPs are:

Domain: the topic about which the group is passionate and wants to learn more about.

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Building your CoP

Participating in a CoP is voluntary; therefore, a facilitator must ensure there are opportunities for new and existing members to engage in ways that they value.

It helps to consider the varying levels of participation people may have with your CoP because membership is voluntary and the domain or the value derived from membership will not be relevant or valuable to all people all of the time. People may move across levels of participation depending on their needs and context. This is a visual representation of this idea based on categories defined by [Beverley Wenger](#)-

