



SELF INCOME
— A C A D E M Y —

4 FREE WAYS TO START EARNING

A beginner-friendly guide to referral programs, print-on-demand merchandise, YouTube, and the Amazon Influencer Program.

Start free. Learn by doing. Build one income stream at a time.

No special degree, expensive equipment, or previous business experience is required. Each method can be started with little or no upfront cost, but every method still requires action, promotion, patience, and honest expectations.



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Start With One Method

Trying to launch everything at once usually creates confusion. Choose the method that feels easiest to begin, complete the first small action, and build from there.

METHOD	WHAT YOU NEED	FIRST GOAL
Referral Programs	Accounts with companies you already use and a unique referral code or link.	Find and share one valid referral offer.
Print On Demand	Five original design ideas, a free store, and a way to promote it.	Publish your first five designs.
YouTube	A channel topic, a phone or computer, and a consistent publishing plan.	Create and publish your first useful video.
Amazon Influencer	An eligible social account, an Amazon account, and products you genuinely know.	Apply, build your storefront, and publish your first useful review.



THE SIMPLE RULE: Pick one method, complete one step, save your work, and keep moving.

Before You Begin

- ✓ Create a separate email address for your earning projects.
- ✓ Keep a simple list of account names, links, codes, storefronts, and login locations.
- ✓ Read the current terms of every program before promoting it.
- ✓ Never promise guaranteed earnings. Results depend on the offer, audience, effort, timing, demand, and platform rules.





1. REFERRAL PROGRAMS

Companies you already do business with may offer cash, credits, points, discounts, or other rewards when a new customer signs up through your unique referral code or link.

Ignoring offers you already qualify for can mean leaving legitimate rewards on the table.

1

Make a company list

Write down the banks, payment apps, delivery services, phone companies, shopping sites, subscriptions, and other businesses you already use.

2

Search for the program

Search the company name plus “referral program.” Also check the app, account dashboard, rewards section, or help center.

3

Read the current rules

Confirm who qualifies, what action is required, the reward, timing, limits, and expiration dates.

4

Save your unique link or code

Use only the referral link or code assigned to your account and keep it in a simple document or spreadsheet.

5

Share it honestly

Explain what the service is, why you use it, what the other person may receive, and that you may also earn a reward.

6

Track your results

Record where and when you shared the offer and whether the required action was completed.

Examples to check: Cash App, Venmo, Uber, Lyft, cell phone companies, shopping services, subscriptions, and companies you already use.

Important: Availability, eligibility, rewards, and terms can change. Always use the company’s current official information.



2. PRINT ON DEMAND MERCHANDISE

Print On Demand allows you to sell merchandise without buying inventory first. You create the design and select products; the platform handles production, payment processing, and shipping when an order is placed.

1

Choose a clear store theme

Build around a topic, community, profession, hobby, humor style, or audience you genuinely understand.

2

Create a free store

Open an account with a print-on-demand marketplace, choose a store name, complete the profile, and review current seller rules.

3

Develop at least five original designs

Start with simple concepts. You are responsible for originality, commercial-use rights, and avoiding protected names, logos, characters, and slogans.

4

Prepare clean image files

Use high-resolution PNG files with transparent backgrounds when appropriate. Check spelling and readability.

5

Upload and describe each design

Add a useful title, accurate description, and relevant search tags. Avoid misleading keywords.

6

Choose products carefully

Enable only products where the design looks good. Reposition and resize artwork for each item.

7

Set a realistic margin

Review the base price and your artist margin. Keep the final price realistic for the audience.

8

Publish and promote

Share the store and product links through appropriate social media, videos, blogs, QR codes, local communities, or your own website.



3. YOUTUBE

Creating a YouTube channel costs \$0. You do not have to show your face. Useful formats include screen recordings, narrated slides, interviews, demonstrations, reviews, list videos, tutorials, and voice-over footage.

Step-By-Step Channel Setup

1

Choose one clear topic

Pick a subject you can discuss repeatedly and that people actively search for.

2

Create the channel

Choose a channel name, add a profile image and banner, and write a short description that tells viewers what they will receive.

3

Plan your first three videos

Choose simple questions people already ask. Give each video one clear purpose.

4

Create the video

Record with a phone, screen recorder, slides, voice-over, or edited footage. Being useful matters more than expensive equipment.

5

Publish it properly

Use a clear title, useful description, readable thumbnail, and relevant links. Disclose affiliate, referral, or sponsorship relationships.

6

Promote and improve

Share appropriately, respond to genuine comments, review performance, and improve one thing with each upload.

Four Ways A Channel Can Earn

YouTube monetization	Advertising and other platform revenue after meeting current eligibility requirements.
Channel memberships	Eligible viewers pay for special content, recognition, or access.
Products or services	Use focused videos to introduce a legitimate product, service, store, class, or offer.
Sponsorships	A company may pay or provide value for an approved brand mention, demonstration, or promotion.





4. AMAZON INFLUENCER PROGRAM

The Amazon Influencer Program is an extension of Amazon Associates for qualifying social media creators. It provides a customizable Amazon storefront and a shareable vanity URL where you can organize products you genuinely recommend.

DOUG'S REAL-WORLD START

"I saw this opportunity in a YouTube video, had never heard of it before, applied, and within about 30 minutes I was approved and able to begin building my storefront."

What You Can Create

- A storefront with a memorable Amazon.com/shop/handle address.
- Idea Lists that organize products by topic, use, room, project, or audience.
- Shoppable photos and product demonstrations.
- Original review videos featuring products you own and understand.
- Individual product links that can be shared through your approved channels.

How To Get Started

1

Visit the official Influencer Program page

Sign in with your Amazon account and begin the application.

2

Connect an eligible social account

Amazon evaluates the social presence used for the application. Approval is not guaranteed and timing varies.

3

Complete the account setup

Add contact, payment, and tax information as required.

4

Build your storefront

Choose a name, profile image, bio, and create organized product lists.

5

Start with products you already own

Select products you can demonstrate honestly without buying new inventory.

6

Create useful original content

Explain what the product does, who it may suit, what you like, what you do not like, and anything shoppers should know.





How Earnings Work

Influencers can earn commission income from qualifying purchases made through their storefront or approved affiliate links. Eligible creators may also earn onsite commissions when Amazon surfaces approved content to shoppers on Amazon.

EARNING PATH	HOW IT WORKS
Your storefront and links	You share your storefront or individual product links. When a shopper follows them and makes a qualifying purchase, commission income may be earned.
Onsite content	If eligible, Amazon may place approved creator content where shoppers can discover it on Amazon. Qualifying purchases influenced by that content may generate onsite commissions.
Commission rates	Rates vary by product category and program type. There is no single universal percentage.
Payment timing	Amazon generally pays approximately 60 days after the end of the month, subject to thresholds, tax information, returns, and program rules.

A Beginner Content Plan

1

Choose three products

Pick items you use regularly and can demonstrate clearly.

2

Record short honest reviews

Focus on the product, your experience, helpful details, and realistic expectations.

3

Use clear titles

Name the product and the main question your video answers.

4

Tag the correct product

Make sure the content points to the exact item shown.

5

Keep publishing

A useful library of content creates more chances to be discovered than one isolated video.

6

Check reporting

Track clicks, ordered items, shipped items, conversion, and commission income to learn what works.





Important Rules

- ✓ Use the required disclosure: "As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases."
- ✓ Do not make false claims, guaranteed-income promises, or misleading product statements.
- ✓ Create original content and use only media you have the right to publish.
- ✓ Do not purchase through your own affiliate links or use the program for prohibited personal orders.
- ✓ Review current official Amazon policies because eligibility, placement, rates, and rules can change.

Your 7-Day Start Plan

The goal is not to become an expert in one week. The goal is to create visible progress and finish one real action every day.

DAY 1	Choose one method and create a dedicated project email address.
DAY 2	Create the necessary account and complete the profile, storefront, or channel setup.
DAY 3	Prepare your first referral list, design idea, video topic, or product-review list.
DAY 4	Create your first shareable link, finished design, draft video, or storefront list.
DAY 5	Publish one offer, product, video, or original product review.
DAY 6	Share it with an appropriate audience and disclose any affiliate, referral, sponsorship, or paid relationship.
DAY 7	Review what happened, correct problems, and plan the next three actions.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO START BIG. You need one completed action that gives you something real to improve, promote, or build upon.

Final Checklist

- ✓ I selected one method instead of trying to do everything at once.
- ✓ I reviewed the current platform or program rules.
- ✓ I used only content, names, images, and designs I have the right to use.
- ✓ I disclosed referral, affiliate, sponsorship, or paid relationships.
- ✓ I avoided guaranteed-income promises.
- ✓ I saved my links, account information, storefront details, and next steps.

General information only: This guide does not guarantee earnings. Platform rules, eligibility standards, fees, commission rates, placement opportunities, and payout terms can change. Review current official terms before participating.